Illustrated Midland News.

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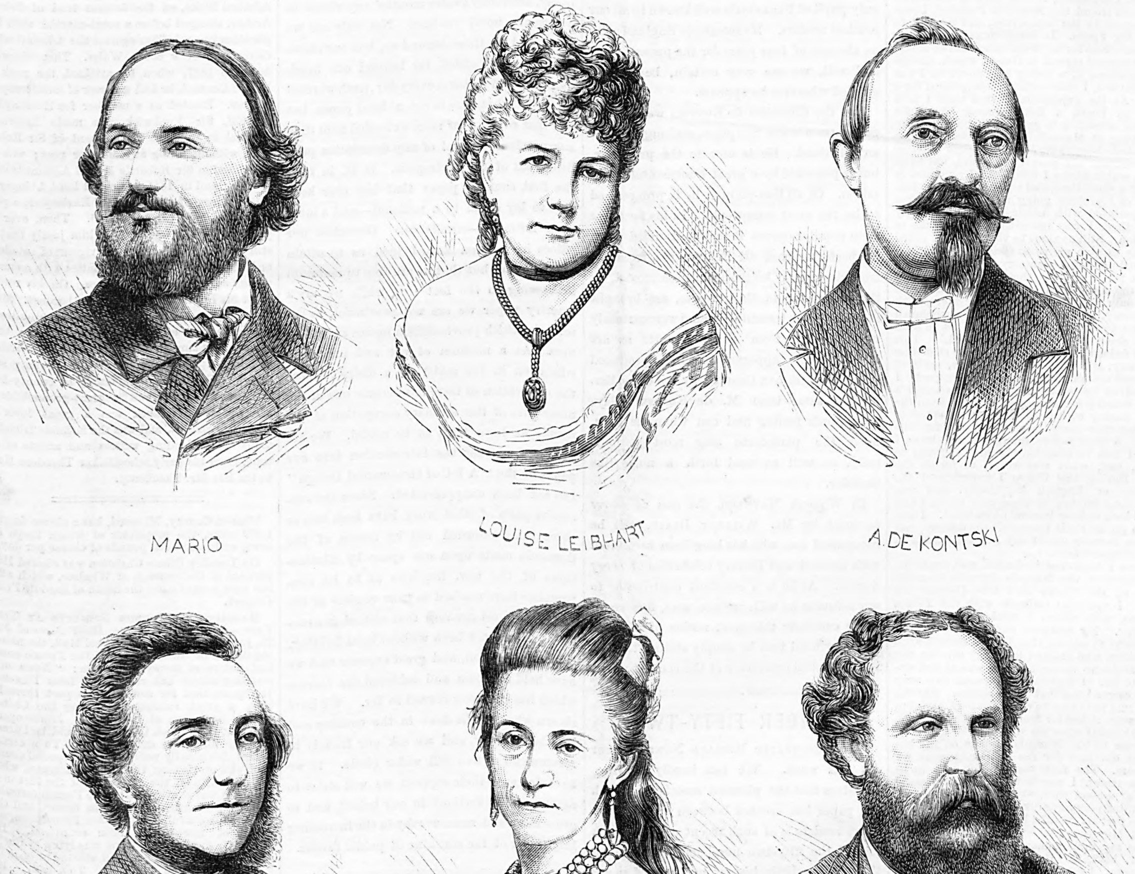
MARIO'S LAST PROVINCIAL TOUR.

It has been well said that the retirement from active life of any individual who has achieved repute in politics or art marks an epoch in the annals of the particular social sphere in which his name has been distinguished. In no instance is this observation more applicable than in that of Signor Mario, who is associated with all that is excellent in lyric art. Taking into consideration the immense celebrity he enjoys, we have been at great pains to obtain correct portraits of those who are to accompany him during his last visit to us, and have much pleasure in giving a picture this week which we believe will have intrinsic interest to our friends in the Midlands and elsewhere. Without doubt the most refined vocalist of our age, Mario combines all the attributes of a great singer, a wonderfully sympathetic voice, dramatic power of the highest order, and a presence probably the handsomest of any romantic tenor who ever lived. The fact that Signor Mario is about to retire from before the public makes those impersonations with which his name is so completely identified matters of history, and the delight experienced in listening to him but too soon to become a pleasure of the past. According to the authorities in London, the



MARIO'S GRAND CONCERT PARTY.

great tenor this season has rarely been in better voice, and on several occasions has exhibited more remarkable dramatic energy than ever. Last winter the *furore* he excited in St. Petersburg was unprecedented—a matter easily understood by those who witnessed his performances of *La Favorita*, *Faust*, and other operas at Covent Garden Theatre during the past summer months. This last tour of one who has contributed so much to our enjoyment will attract to the provincial Concert Rooms not only those who are familiar with the great Italian's exceptional powers, but a new generation curious to hear that marvellous voice which has been the theme of praise amongst their elders—a voice which still possesses all its original sweetness and charming quality of tone enhanced by the refinement of experience and art.

Mario's friend, Walter Maynard, in a recent contribution to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, gave an interesting autobiographic sketch, which, being told in the tenor's own words, is of especial interest just now. We venture to reprint the following extract:—

"I was born," says Mario, "at Cagliari, in Sardinia. My father was the Marchese di Candia. I was sent to the Military Academy, and served in the army seven years. When at Genoa with my regiment, the Chasseurs de la Garde, I was suspected of associating with those who were politically opposed to the Government, and was, in consequence, deputed to carry despatches to Sardinia. This being evidently a pretext to get rid of me, I protested, and in spite of the advice of my good friend the Marchese Paolucci, I sent in my papers to the authorities, and decided to embark for Spain. It being some time before the preparations for my departure could be made, I had to conceal myself in Genoa, which, thanks to the assistance of a young lady to whom I was much attached, I successfully accomplished for a month. At the expiration of that time I took passage on board a fishing-smack bound for Marseilles, intending to proceed thence to Spain. On arriving at Marseilles, I was received with the greatest hospitality, and strongly advised not to continue my journey to Spain, but to go to Paris, which advice I followed. I remained in Paris but a short time, and was persuaded to join a party of travellers going to London. Being well acquainted with Admiral Fielding's family through them I was introduced to the Duke of Wellington. Still anxious to visit Spain, I asked the Duke to give me some facility for so doing. He assured me it was a country in which I should make no progress—that the more energy I displayed, the more enemies I should make; and that the only thing I could hope for there, with any certainty, was a *coup de fusil*. He concluded his advice by saying, 'Amusez vous, et je ferai quelque chose pour vous plus tard.' This counsel I followed to such good purpose that time passed away, and with it all my money, until at last I found myself without means of support. I then resolved to go to America, and secured a cabin on board a sailing-vessel, starting from the Thames, having with some difficulty managed to scrape together forty pounds to pay for the passage. A week before the ship was to leave I fell ill—I had to abandon the idea of going to America, and, what was worse, to forfeit the money. During this illness I experienced the *profondeur* of English hospitality, and was treated like a brother by those with whom I had the good luck to have become acquainted. I was urged to go to Paris to consult the doctors, and was taken there by one of my English friends in his travelling carriage.

In Paris I improved in health, and made the acquaintance of the Marquis Aguado, then the director of the Opera and the Théatre des Italiens. I was also intimate with the Prince Belgiojoso, with whom I used to sing duets *en amateur*. My financial circumstances, however, became so serious, that I made them known to the prince, who insisted upon my turning my vocal abilities to account. This was at first obnoxious to me. I had looked forward to a very different career from that of an *artiste*. But the prince would not listen to my objections, assuring me that were it not for family considerations, he would go himself upon the stage.

He spoke to the Marquis Aguado on my behalf, and obtained for me an engagement for three years. The first year, which was to be passed in study, I received fourteen thousand francs, the second thirty-two thousand francs, and the third year forty-five thousand francs.

For the first six months I was placed under the tuition of Meyerbeer, whom I daily visited.

I made my first appearance in Paris, on December 1, 1838, in 'Robert le Diable," at the Grand Opera. I sang there two years and a half, and played in the 'Comte d'Ory,' 'Le Drapier,' and other operas. In 1840, Aguado made me sing at the Italiens, where I appeared in 'L'Elisire d'Amore.' I really forget whether it was in 1839 or 1840 that I came out in London, at Her Majesty's, in 'Lucrezia Borgia,' with Giulia Grisi; but it was about that time.

I was not considered a success, at any rate; and, in fact, my career did not begin until 1842, when I sang in Dublin with Tamburini, Grisi, and Lablache, and with Benedict as conductor. After that I returned to Paris, and sang the Rubini *répertoire*, in which I was most fortunate. Since then my life has passed but too rapidly in going from Paris to London every season, and meeting always with the greatest kindness everywhere. In the winter of 1849 I went for the first time to Russia, and in 1854 to America. London and Paris, however, have been the two cities of which I shall always have the most pleasant recollections, unless it be Dublin, where I first received the greatest encouragement. Strange to say, I have never sung in Italy."

A few words with regard to the other Artists in our group. Mdlle. Liebhart has evinced an original and special talent in English ballads. She adds to a quaint and peculiarly effective style, great facility of vocalisation by which she is enabled to give effect to classical music as well as to less difficult compositions. Mdlle. Liebhart for some time was *prima donna leggiera* of the Kârntner Thor Opera House in Vienna, where she achieved a popularity equal to that she now so deservedly enjoys in this country.

The contralto of the party is a young singer whose charming voice will in all probability make a great reputation for its fortunate possessor. Miss Enriquez is a pupil of Mr. Deacon and sang for the first time on February 12 this year, at the Monday Popular Concerts in St. James' Hall. It is a convincing proof of the ability of any artist to be allowed to take part in these essentially classical entertainments. That the *debutante* was very favourably received on the occasion of her first appearance is a guarantee of her proficiency. Miss Enriquez has recently sung at Manchester and Liverpool with success, the art-critics of those towns confirming in every respect the unanimous opinion of the London press in her favour.

Signor Sivori, the famous violinist, the only pupil of Paganini is well known to all our musical readers. He returns to England after an absence of four years for the present tour, and will, we are very certain, be heartily greeted wherever he appears.

For the Chevalier de Kontski we can also guarantee a warm reception, although not as an old friend. He is new to the provinces, but is preceded by a great Continental reputation. Of all lion-pianists he is pronounced to be the most sensational. In his fantasias from popular operas it may be fancied when he performs that all instruments, from the triangle to the kettle-drums, employed by the composers in their scores, are brought into use. Such torrents of sound were certainly never elicited from one pianoforte as are without much apparent exertion produced from a "Kirkman Grand" by the Chevalier. At the same time M. de Kontski plays with much feeling and can when he likes, make the pianoforte sing most pathetically, as well as send forth a noise like thunder.

In Walter Maynard, the *nom de guerre* assumed by Mr. Willert Beale, will be recognised one who has long been associated with musical and literary celebrities of every degree. As he is a constant contributor to our columns he will, we are sure, forgive us if we conclude this short notice of Mario's last provincial tour by simply stating that he is the musical conductor of the concert party.

NUMBER FIFTY-TWO.

The Illustrated Midland News is a year old this week. We can hardly convince ourselves that the pleasant association which the paper has created between us and our many readers is of such recent origin. Each one of the fifty-two numbers before us on the file is a little history in itself of many efforts at once to please the friends already gathered round us and to make new ones. More than a work of literature only, much more than an ordinary newspaper, the pages of an illustrated serial like ours throng with incidents which are so many living reminiscences of the intercourse which exists between the conductor of the publication and those for whom he labours. About what an editor writes he has not much anxiety. He speaks his mind, takes counsel, as it were, with his readers, and has enough confidence in their general sympathy with his own views and feelings upon the topics on which he discourses to look indifferently on the column of type that is set before him when his article is in print. That is one of the conditions of the freedom of thought and the habitual unreserve which accompanies the interchange of sentiments on matters of public interest. But it is not quite so with pictures. They are not to be struck off on our sheets and put into the hands of our friends with the same cool independence of feeling. With a very great deal of consideration for the tastes and sensibilities of those for whom we are catering have we examined every one of the two or three thousand engravings in these fifty-two numbers, as the first impressions presented themselves, before we have sent the papers forth; and every figure and sketch as we open the familiar pages reminds us of moments of thought—of hope, let us say, sometimes, and sometimes of anxiety—with regard to the continuation and the increase of the favourable relations which sprung into existence at the outset between us and our subscribers. And the year's work means something more. It means difficulties—some expected and some unlooked for—difficulties mechanical, artistic, and literary—which we have met and overcome. A few of these we have mentioned in our columns from time to time, not without eliciting expressions of sympathy and suggestions and offers of help. And we have established ourselves. That is something to say, after only twelve months' experience in a perfectly novel venture. Not only are we supported by those around us, but our circulation has extended far beyond our headquarters, and we have, every day, fresh warrant for saying that ours is not a local paper, but one that covers a far more extended field than any previous journal of any description published out of the metropolis. It is, in fact, the first country paper that has ever been able to lay claim to a national—and a more than national—circulation. Doubtless our offices in London have helped us to attain this position, but that we are able to maintain it is owing to the fact that while we are a country paper we are not provincial, in the sense in which provincialism means exclusiveness. As a medium of art and industrial education in the midst of a district where the cultivation of taste has become one of the necessities of the ordinary occupation of the people we have tried to be useful. We are glad to find that the introduction into our pages of the "A B C of Ornamental Design" has not been unappreciated. Since the successive parts of that work have been two or three times crowded out by reason of the demands made upon our space by illustrations of the war, inquiries as to its continuance have reached us from readers of the very class most needing that sort of instruction. It has not been without hard fighting, untiring devotion, and great expense that we have held our own and achieved the success which has been our reward so far. We have shown what can be done in the country and by the country, and we ask our friends to recommend us to a still wider circle. If we have deserved their support we will strive to deserve their exertions in our behalf, and to grow more and more worthy in the increasing brightness of the sunshine of public favour.

The Midland Favourite.—A Lasting and Refreshing Summer Perfume for the Handkerchief.—Prepared only by A. Court, Chemist, 35, Bull Street, Birmingham. Established 1790. [676

War Maps.—One of the best War Maps published, is that presented through the medium of the Grocers, by the manufacturers of the Glenfield Starch, to all purchasers of that article. Grocers may have them by applying direct. [710

Rosseter's Hair Restorer is the only preparation which can be confidently relied upon for restoring grey hair to its original colour. It assists nature in supplying the colouring properties which may have become deficient through age or disease. Price 3s. 6d. per bottle. [628

Pure Water.—Alfred Bird, Experimental Chemist, begs to announce that he has perfected his new Carbon Filter, price 7s. 6d. each, which he guarantees shall deliver 60 gallons of the purest water daily.—To be seen in action at 69, Worcester Street, Birmingham. [930

Advice to Mothers.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist, and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately: it is perfectly harmless: it produces natural quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It is very pleasant to take; it soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes.—Sold by all medicine vendors at 1s. 1½d. per bottle. [694

DEATH OF SIR FRED. POLLOCK.

Sir Frederick Pollock, Baronet, Ex-Chief Baron of Her Majesty's Court of Exchequer, died on Tuesday afternoon at the age of 87. David Pollock, the late Chief Baron's father, a man of Scottish extraction, kept a saddler's shop near Charing Cross. Three of his sons rose to high distinction in the world, they were, first, the late Sir David Pollock, Chief Justice of Bombay, who died many years ago; the third, Field-Marshall Sir George Pollock, is best known as the hero of the Khyber Pass and of Cabul; and the second was the Chief Baron who died on Tuesday. Frederick Pollock was born at his father's house, in the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, on the 23rd of September, 1783. Having received his early education under private instructors, he was sent, at the age of 15 or 16, to complete it at St. Paul's school, where he distinguished himself over his fellows both in classics and mathematics; and when, in 1802, he exchanged St. Paul's school for the wider theatre of Trinity College, Cambridge, he found that his high reputation for hard work, and for learning, too, had preceeded him to the banks of the Cam. Here he came out first in every successive College examination; and in 1806 he closed a very brilliant Undergraduate career by "going out" as Senior Wrangler and first Smith's Prizeman. In the following year he was elected to a Fellowship in his College, and he proceeded to his M.A. in due course. He was admitted at the Middle Temple in 1802, and was called to the Bar in 1807. His rise in the profession was very rapid. For several years leader on the Northern Circuit he soon became famous at Westminster Hall, and was retained in nearly every cause of importance. Before he had been quite three years at the bar his reputation was widely extended by his conduct of the case of Admiral Blake, on the famous trial of Colonel Arthur, charged before a court-martial with implication in a rebellion against the Admiral while Governor of New South Wales. Thenceforward down to 1827, when he attained the rank of King's Counsel, he had a career of uninterrupted success. Elected as a member for Huntingdon in 1831, Sir Frederick was made Attorney-General in the first Government of Sir Robert Peel, without filling any inferior post; was reappointed in Sir Robert's second Administration in 1841; and in 1844 succeeded Lord Abinger as Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, a post which he held till July 1866. Then, over 80 years of age, it was said of him justly that he still retained all his pristine vigour of intellect, and discharged his onerous duties with as much energy as any of his colleagues. On his retirement Sir Frederick was created a baronet. Since then he has resided at Hatton, in Middlesex, where he died on Monday night, after a brief illness. The lamented Baronet was twice married, and in a ripe old age lived to see twenty surviving children out of a family of twenty-five, forty grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Sir Frederick Pollock was a great lover of literature and art, and was the intimate friend of many of the leading writers and artists of his time, from his early schoolfellow Theodore Hook to the late Mr. Thackeray.

Clinton County, Missouri, has a cheese farm of 1,500 acres, the proprietor of which keeps 300 cows, and makes 400 pounds of cheese per day.

On Tuesday Prince Christian was elected High steward of the borough of Windsor, which office has been vacant since the death of the late Prince Consort.

Massacre of French Subjects at Tien-Tsin.—In the *North China Daily News* of June 27, just arrived by the Overland Mail, the following details of the slaughter of the French consul and sisters of mercy are given: "News of a startling nature has reached us from Tien-tsin. It appears that for several days past there has been a great excitement among the Chinese against foreigners at that place. It was openly said that the French Cathedral would be burned, and the foreigners exterminated. To a certain extent this is sadly verified. By a special courier via Taku overtaking the steamer Dragon, which left Tien-tsin on the afternoon of the 21st inst., the news was conveyed that the French consulate and French cathedral were in flames, and that the French consul, several other Frenchmen, and sisters of mercy had been murdered. Her Majesty's gunboat Opossum was lying at Chefoo when this news arrived, and started at once (on the night of the 23rd) for Tien-tsin. Her Majesty's gunboat Dwarf leaves Shanghai this afternoon for Tien-tsin, in consequence of this news, and the French gunboat Flamme will start to-morrow morning. In the meantime the Aspic and Scorpion remain in port; and her Majesty's ship Zebra at Nagaski has been requested to come over. The volunteers were called out at Shanghai, in order to defend the settlement in the absence of the gunboats. The steamers Manchu and Appin were detained in Tien-tsin to give as much protection to foreign residents as possible. No cause is assigned for the murderous assault at Tien-tsin. One of the victims at Tien-tsin is stated to be a French medical man. On July 7 a rumour prevailed at Hong Kong that Count Rochechouart, French Minister, and some Russians have been killed at Pekin, and that the whole of the Foreign Legation buildings there were in flames. From Japan, an insurrection is reported in the island of Awa, where no less than 1,400 persons are said to have been indiscrimately massacred, and the Awa Daimio declares he will exterminate the inhabitants.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The cost of taking the census next year is estimated at £200,000.

There has been an increase of traffic during the last half-year on all the Irish railways.

The Cornish smelters have advanced the price of tin £3 a ton. The price had previously fallen £15 in consequence of the war.

Several lives have recently been sacrificed and extensive tracts of woodland destroyed in and around Ottawa (Canada) by conflagrations, which have been raging there. The town of Ottawa has been exposed to great danger.

The new pier at Torquay, built at a cost of £60,000, was opened by Sir L. Palk, M.P., on Saturday.

The Eastern Fisheries.—The Great Yarmouth boats engaged in the North Sea herring fishery have made a fair beginning this season. Prices have ranged at from £10 to £20 per last (13,200 fish).

In Jersey, every male between 16 and 46 must be enrolled in the militia. In its population of 30,000 this gives 4,000 militiamen. If the same rule prevailed throughout the rest of Great Britain, it would give us an army of *four millions* of soldiers.

We learn from a leading article in the *Ipswich Journal* that the failure of Messrs. Harvey and Hudson's Bank involves the certain locking-up of funds to the amount of £1,000 belonging to the Suffolk Agricultural Association, and the almost certain loss of about half that amount. An appeal is made to the public to repair the loss.

The Tyne Champion Rowers.—Messrs. James Taylor, Thomas Winship, John Martin, and James Renforth (stroke), the Tyne champion crew, who have undertaken the journey to America to uphold the honour of their native river in an international four-oared match on the Lachine, on the 15th of September next, for £1,000, with the St. John's or Paris crew, arrived safely in Quebec on Monday shortly after one o'clock. The crew are reported in excellent health and spirits, and have thoroughly enjoyed their particularly fine run across the Atlantic. The betting on the result of the match in Newcastle is at the rate of two to one on Renforth and his colleagues.

Postal Delivery.—The great increase that must take place in the postal business in consequence of the half-penny newspaper-postage, the half-penny card-postage, &c., coming into operation on the 1st of October, has led the Post-master General to issue a circular calling the attention of the public to "the help which, at little cost, they can afford to the Department, and to the advantage they may gain in the way of increased rapidity in the delivery of letters, by the general adoption of street door letter boxes." The Post-master General adds that "in many localities already these boxes are extensively used, and it is hoped that everywhere householders who have not hitherto adopted them will not object to do so, in anticipation of the approaching postal changes."

The Count Lagrange's Sporting Stud.—Count Lagrange has determined to sell off all his English trained horses and his two stallions Gladiateur and Montagnard. This sale is announced for the 5th ult., at Tattersall's, in thirty-eight lots, including Trocadéro, Mortemer, Général, Croisade, Nélusko, Turquoise, &c. The event must be regarded as another "incident of the war." There is sure to be spirited competition for Gladiateur, the winner of the Two Thousand, Derby, and St. Leger in 1865, for whom Count Lagrange refused £10,000 when three years old. The distinguished two-year-old performer, Général, one of the most conspicuous Derby favourities for 1871, will doubtless also be eagerly sought by buyers.

The Double Furrow Plough.—We have received a letter from Mr. William Woofe, stating that the Double Furrow Plough described in our report of the Oxford Show as Messrs. Ransomes, Sims, and Head's Plough, is not their patent but his, and that the Ipswich firm have no legal claim to the invention. To this Messrs. Ransomes, Sims, and Head reply that they are advised that their right to manufacture the plough which they exhibited at the late Bath and West of England and at the Oxford Royal Agricultural Shows is not affected by any patent granted to Mr. Woofe. The plough referred to is, they say, manufactured under, and strictly in accordance with, a patent granted to Mr. John Robert Jefferies. They affirm that this patent is the property of their firm, and is in full force. The application which they made for another patent, was, they state, stopped on technical grounds.

Volunteer Demonstration.—An imposing ceremony took place on Saturday at the Guildhall, in connection with the Volunteer Service, the occasion being the public reception of the Elcho Challenge Shield and the International Enfield Trophy, by the Lord Mayor, who has consented to be their custodian for the year. The Guildhall had been specially prepared for the occasion, in the presence of the Chief magistrate of the City and many of the principal citizens. The various Volunteer Corps in the City of London had mustered in Finsbury-square, while the winning teams assembled about half-past four o'clock on the Thames Embankment, opposite the Temple. Thence the trophies were borne with great pomp to the Guildhall, each on a gun carriage of the Hon. Artillery Company, drawn by four horses, and escorted by the English Eight and the English Twenty. The whole of the Volunteers having been ranged along each side of the hall and across the Western end of it, five or six deep, at a given signal the English Eight marched in, bearing on their shoulders the ponderous Elcho Challenge Shield, along the open space leading to the dais, the band playing the "conquering hero," the whole of the troops presenting arms, and the company cheering. They were followed by the English twenty, at the head of whom was Captain Field, of the Hon Artillery Company, carrying the International Enfield Trophy, a stately and elaborate specimen of the silversmith's art, the Volunteers again presenting arms, the band playing, and the audience cheering. In an appropriate speech, the Lord Mayor accepted the custody of the shields, and with cheers for the Queen and his Lordship, the proceedings concluded.

The end of the wooden pier at Herne Bay caught fire on Sunday night, and burnt for some time before it was extinguished.

The *Orchestra* learns from private sources that the parting scene of the King of Denmark and the Princess of Wales was heartrending.

Two hundred targets have been constructed in Montreal to afford the Canadian volunteers increased facilities for rifle practice.

Sir George Grey, the ex-Governor of New Zealand, will, it is said, spend next winter in that colony.

The Rev. J. H. Austen, of Kinson, Dorset, has given two acres of land to the wandering gipsy tribes, that they may settle on it unmolested by the law.

A new Orange Hall in Armagh was opened in the presence of about 40,000 people on Friday. There were fully 1,000 police, infantry, and cavalry in the town.

The long-talked-of swimming match between H. Coulter and D. Pamphlin was swam on Monday at noon, over the two miles of tide-way between the Doves, at Hammersmith, to Putney Aqueduct, on an ebb tide. Coulter won by five lengths.

In connection with the Republican disturbances at La Villette, the prisoner Drest has been condemned to death, whilst Olidat and Saint Hubert have been sentenced to ten years' hard labour. Two more have been condemned and two others acquitted.

Conscience Money.—The money remitted in a year to the Chancellor of the Exchequer "by sundry persons for conscience sake" (as the Finance Accounts phrase it) is decreasing in amount. In the financial year 1867-68 it was £4,688; in 1868-69 it declined to £4,194; in 1869-70 it has been only £3,933.

The Ex-Empress Charlotte.—The eminent physicians in attendance on the ex-Empress of Mexico, determined to try the effect of the war crisis in France upon their unfortunate patient, and, as they anticipated, the sudden shock of the communication to the Princess Charlotte of the late Prussian victories has had a wonderfully salutary influence on the state of the Royal patient's mind. The interrupted thread of her ideas has been restored. She reads with avidity the news of the day, and the physicians are now confident of the complete recovery of the Princess.

Sale of the late Poet Shelley's Estates.—On Saturday Mr. Gilford sold to a gentleman, named Worth, the remaining portion of the late poet's freehold estates in Sussex, for the extraordinary low sum of £9,450, including the Historical Marlpast Manor Wood, with Madgeland, and other farms. The oak timber alone is said to be worth half the purchase money, and the entire property abounds with game. It is rumoured that one of the said gentleman's ancestors was killed in the valley of "Worth" some 40 years ago, which possibly gave rise to the town being known by that name, as it was then only a scattered village.

Exciting Scene at Saltburn-by-the-Sea.—There was a cheap excursion on Monday from Spenny Moor and neighbourhood to this fashionable watering-place. The sea was very boisterous, notwithstanding which the bathing machines were largely in request. The proprietor of the bathing machines (Mr. Lithgow) gave instructions that no machines were to be taken beyond a certain distance into the sea, but a party of three young men were not satisfied with this, and as soon as they were ready to bathe scampered into deep sea. They were soon in danger of losing their lives amidst the overpowering breakers, and one especially was in great peril. He was noticed by Mr. Lithgow, who promptly mounted one of his horses, and at the risk of his own life galloped into the sea. Occasionally all was lost to sight, and the bystanders fully expected they had succumbed, but after several unsuccessful attempts, the bather was secured to the trappings of the horse and brought safely to shore almost powerless.

Joseph Mazzini.—The arrest of Mazzini has been the subject of a good deal of discussion in Italy. The latter part of a recent sitting of the Chamber was occupied with the demand of Deputy Bertani as to the circumstances under which Mazzini had, two days previously, been arrested at Palermo. The Premier Lanza, who, as Home Secretary, is entrusted with the preservation of the public peace, said Mazzini had been arrested when on his way to Palermo, travelling with a false passport. Bertani protested against the act, on the ground that no passport whatever was necessary for an Italian citizen; that, consequently, the possession of a formal or informal passport could not be a ground of accusation against any one. Thereupon Lanza adduced the more valid reason that as Mazzini was under sentence for complicity in two conspiracies, the law officers had declared the Government to have full right to arrest him. The fact is, says the correspondent of the *Morning Post*, Mazzini has been travelling about Italy for months, and no prefect was ready to "bell the cat" by laying hands on him. He was at Milan. The Prefect of Milan knew it, let him depart for Genoa, then telegraphed to the Prefect of Genoa "arrest him." The Prefect of Genoa thought he could do nothing better than follow so wise an example. He left Mazzini at full liberty in Genoa, but on his starting for Naples, telegraphed off to his colleague, the prefect there, to lay hands on him. The Prefect of Naples would not be more courteous to the illustrious revolutionist than his brothers of Milan and Genoa, and only after his starting for Palermo telegraphed off to General Medici, the Prefect of Palermo, as to the visitor on his way to the Sicilian capital. But General Medici took another view of official courtesies, and on receiving the telegram sent off a Government steamer, arrested Mazzini before he even landed, and sent him straight to the fortress of Gaeta. There he lies, awaiting, we are told, his trial; and the trial of Joseph Mazzini at the present moment in Italy may prove an element of revolutionary trouble scarcely less embarassing to a Government than his being left at large. Deputy Bertani is a celebrated Italian doctor and a warm personal friend of both Mazzini and Garibaldi. General Medici is an old friend and follower of Mazzini. He was an officer of the Roman Republic, and served under Garibaldi at the siege of Rome in 1849. After that he joined the Sardinian army, and in both the war for Lombardy, in 1859, and for Venice, in 1866, he held high command.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Some little disappointment is being felt in astronomical circles at the refusal of the Government to grant ships and money for the furnishing of expeditions to Southern Spain and Sicily for observation of the Solar Eclipse of December next. The Government, not knowing what demands may arise for such vessels as the observers desire, have thought it better not to commit themselves to a promise; and some of the gentlemen who looked forward to taking part in the observations at the country's expense are somewhat angry at the destroyal of their prospects. Under the circumstances, they ought not to complain. Their request was not a modest one: two transports, to be placed at their disposal, manned and provisioned for a month or six weeks, and a thousand pounds into the bargain, were asked for and the advantages to science likely to follow from the extensive expedition could not be guaranteed: something important might be revealed, or the results might be worth nothing. We should have liked to see the extensive schemes of observation—alluded to by us some months ago—fully carried out; and we should like to see a Government generous enough to give thousands of pounds to any scientific body that feels it has good cause for asking for them. But we think that in the present case the astronomers' mouths were opened a little too wide in begging for money to be mainly spent in making reputations, and for ships to convey a troop of amateurs out for what would have been, for more than half of them, only a holiday trip—since quite that proportion of the volunteer observers would have produced nothing equivalent to the cost of their passage.

Not a little noise has been made about an atmospheric telegraph invented by an Italian, Sig. Guattari. Tubes are to be laid down, in lieu of the wires necessary for electric telegraphy, and these are to be filled with air, compressed if necessary. Then by altering the pressures, by a piston or a valve, at one end—the sending station of a supposed line of telegraph—the pressure at the other end—the receiving station—will be correspondingly altered and may be made to show its alterations upon an index the movements of which can be converted into a speaking code. There is nothing striking in this proposal: it is but a renewal of the atmospheric bell system in use in houses where bell-wires are objected to. Yet the Royal Scientific Institute of Naples has given Sig. Guattari a gold medal for his ingenuity, and remarks that it is the only gold medal the Institute has ever awarded. Truly the Neapolitan savans must be hard up for aspirants to their golden honours.

Several years ago report came from America that a surgeon, examining the retina of a man's eye who had been murdered, found photographed thereupon the image of the murderer and some surrounding objects. A theory was accordingly started that impressions of objects falling upon what may be called the sensitive plate of the eye-camera were really fixed there for a time—for ever if, as in the cases of sudden death, no later impression obliterated them. The matter fell out of sight, however—although a magazine story was based upon the American report—till January, 1869, when a French doctor announced that a case had come before him in which a murdered woman's retina exhibited a picture of the scene of her murder, with the perpetrator in the act of striking a child, and other accessories. French learned bodies are closer in their dealings than are ours with extraordinary communications like this one, and accordingly another physician, M. Vernois, was called upon to examine the question. He made a number of experiments upon animals, killed in various ways, dissecting and closely scrutinizing their retinæ, but he was never able to detect anything like a picture, and his physiological considerations led him to conclude that it is impossible such a thing could be formed. The previous reports must therefore have been based upon delusions—if nothing worse. M. Vernois' verdict has lately been announced to the Société de Médecine. The correction of an old error is often as important as the arrival at a new truth.

We all know how much more fatiguing it is to work by lamp, gas, or candle-light than by daylight. The reason for this has been made the subject of examination by M. Victor Meunier, and the conclusion arrived at is that the oppression to the eye from artificial lights is due to the larger proportion of heat rays they contain compared with sunlight. In the latter the light rays are in great excess; while in the ordinary oil flame 90 per cent. of rays are calorific without being luminous. In paraffin oils this proportion is 94 per cent., and in gas 90 per cent. It is a heating of the eye by this excessive warmth of the artificial illuminators that so wearies the sight. M. Meunier suggests as a remedy that plane glass spectacles be worn for night work, or better still small plates of mica, mounted as spectacles, as these media intercept the calorific rays but let the light rays freely pass.

There was to have been a considerable gathering of philosophers in Paris this month to discuss the propriety of constructing a standard métre which should be accepted as a prototype by all European nations. Several delegates put in an appearance, among them Dr. Otto Struve, Director of the Observatory at Pulkova; Dr. Wild, Director of the Physicial Observatory at St. Petersburg; and Dr. Möhu, Director of the Meteorological Institute of Christiania. But no Germans were present, and as internationality was thus out of the question the conference was postponed till such times as the French Government think fit to summon it. When the meeting does take place the whole subject of international measures, weights, and coinage will be taken into consideration.

· GOSSIP.

The *Journal de Toulouse* announces the death of Léotard, the great gymnast.

The *Globe* is again under the editorship of Mr. Henry Barnet.

Sir John Burgoyne is said to be the writer of the military articles in the *Times*.

Flotow's "Ombre" will soon be produced in several towns in Italy.

Dr. Schloenbach has been appointed Professor of Geology at Prague.

The mise-en-scène of Wagner's "Walkyrie" at Munich cost 100,000 florins.—*Musical Standard.*

Mr. Sothern is making another provincial tour.

Mrs. Scott-Siddons will appear in "'Twixt Axe and Crown" in the United States this autumn.

Mr. Swinburne is engaged upon "Bothwell" which he hopes soon to have ready for publication.

M. Rabbe has begun a sketch of the life of Sir W. Hamilton, in the *Revue Contemporaine.*

A petrified forest has been discovered in Lake County, U.S.

Herr Strauss has written a one-act opera, which, it is said, will be produced in the autumn at Vienna.

The State of Indiana, U.S., will be out of debt September 1st.

The State of Kansas has fifteen thousand more men than women.

There are one thousand eight hundred acres under cultivation in grapes in Hancock County, Illinois.

The French surgeons have been using chloral as a local application to stay the pains of burns, and seem to have found it effectual.

In the coming session of the London Institution Professor Huxley will deliver a course of lectures on the First Principles of Biology.

Hans Christian Andersen had accepted an invitation, just before Dickens died, to make a visit of a month to Gad's Hill Place.

Mr. L. B. Phillips is engaged on a Biographical Dictionary, in which references will be given to works where the lives of the persons whose names occur in the Dictionary can be found given at length.

The church choirs of New York take holiday through the month of August, and most of the churches close from the end of July till the beginning of September.

Mr. Hotten has published, in a neat volume, the collection of "The Speeches of Charles Dickens," with the addition of a complete chronological list of the great novelist's writings.

Carlotta Patti has arrived (says the *Musical Standard*) with the other members of her troupe, at Rio Janeiro, where the aristocracy were according them a most cordial reception.

The wife of Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, sister to the young King of Portugal, is said to be the handsomest blonde among the Princesses of Germany.

The editor of the *Tomahawk* announces that, in consequence of circumstances connected with the insolvency of Sir William Russell, he is forced to stop the publication of that periodical.

The inhabitants of Crawley have determined to perpetuate among them the memory of the late Mr. Mark Lemon, who was for many years a resident in that village, by erecting a drinking fountain to his memory.

The *Musical Standard* says that there has been disinterred from the archives of the Paris Opera a ballet represented in the time of the first Revolution, and containing variations for the clarionet upon the "Marseillaise," written in a style which, although very florid and curious, is said to render the instrument "little less than heroic."

We see it announced that Messrs. Cassell intend to present with the re-issue of their "Family Bible" a large engraving of "The Hymn of the Lord's Supper." Those who may have seen the original painting by Smetham, from which this is taken, are not likely to have lost the impression which it conveys. It treats one of the most pathetic incidents in the life of Christ with the most pathetic simplicity: "And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives."

To-day (Saturday) Miss Glynn (Mrs. E. S. Dallas) departs in the Russia for New York, commencing a tour which will probably comprise the principal towns of America and Australia. The *Times* reminds the New World or the Worlds she is about to visit, that she is not only a "reader," but an actress of great qualities, and that two characters belonging to the highest department of histronic art, have become exclusively her own by the mere force of her genius. If the Americans and Australians, finding Miss Glynn among them, do not see "Anthony" and "Cleopatra" and the "Duchess of Malfy" acted in a theatre, they will miss an opportunity which may not again occur.

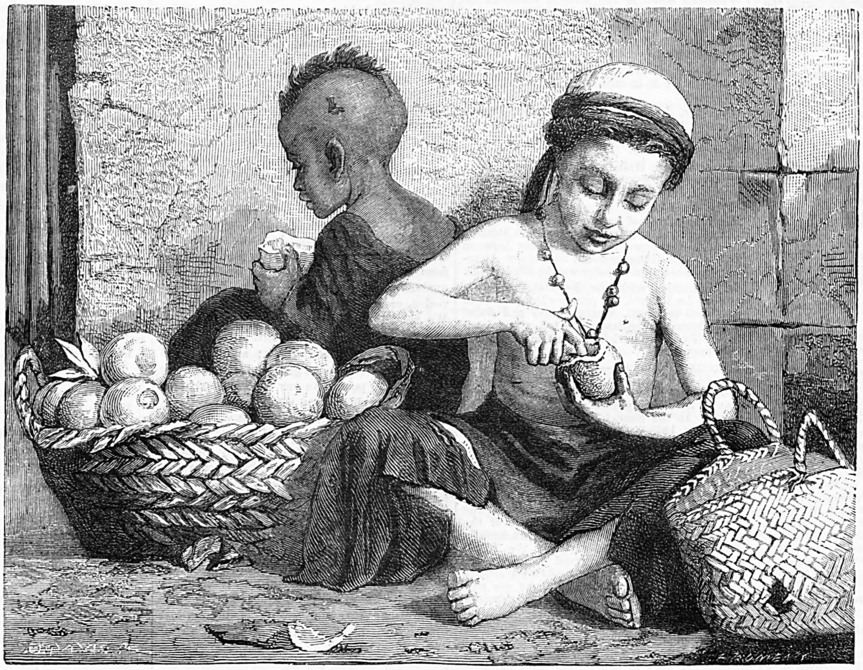
The Queen has created M. Ferdinand Lesseps an Honorary Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India. Her Majesty has also appointed Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B. (now governor of the colony of Mauritius) governor and commander in chief of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope and its dependencies.

Bredalbane, the horse which was so enthusiastically supported by the general public for the Derby in "Gladiateur's year" was sold by auction by Messrs. Tattersalls on Monday to Mr. Blenkiron for £1,650, after a sharp competition betweeen that gentleman and Mr. Hartington of Limerick and Mr. Holmes of Beverley.

International Working Men's Congress.—In consequence of the war, the General Council of the International Working Men's Association, at the last meeting, Mr. Mottershead in the chair, resolved unanimously: "That, in consideration of the advice received from the continental sections of the association, the meeting of the Fifth Annual Congress be postponed till the earliest opportunity."

A STREET IN JERUSALEM.

The striking engraving below, from a very fine and effective painting by M. Bonnat, is another of our illustrations of pictures in the French Academy. There is an extraordinary massiveness and power in the painting, which rendered it conspicuous in the Salon. Having, by a certain breadth of conception and boldness of handling attracted the attention of the spectator, it does not disappoint in the management of its details: the figures are natural as well as picturesque, the perspective is real, the grouping is so artistic that the art of it is concealed. To M. Bonnat was awarded the society's grand medal last year, but this season he did not succeed in carrying off a prize. M. A. de Pontmartin, an able French critic, thinks M. Bonnat ought to have had a medal this year, not for "A Street in Jerusalem," nor for another fine picture of his, "The Assumption," but for a painting called "The Fellah Woman and her Child," in which, he says, the artist has displayed all the freshness and vigour of his talent. "M. Bonnat's manner," says M. Pontmartin, "is well-known. It is said that he paints upon packing-canvas, and that his pictures thereby assume a rough, coarse-ground appearance incompatible with the refined elegance of female beauty and the mystic softness of holy subjects." In spite of this peculiarity the critic gives very high praise to his favourite picture. Looking at our engraving it is not difficult for any one unacquainted with the original of the artist's pictures to understand how, with some subjects, the very roughness of his canvas contributes to the high quality of the effect produced. One can forgive a coarse ground to a picture like that of "A Street in Jerusalem."

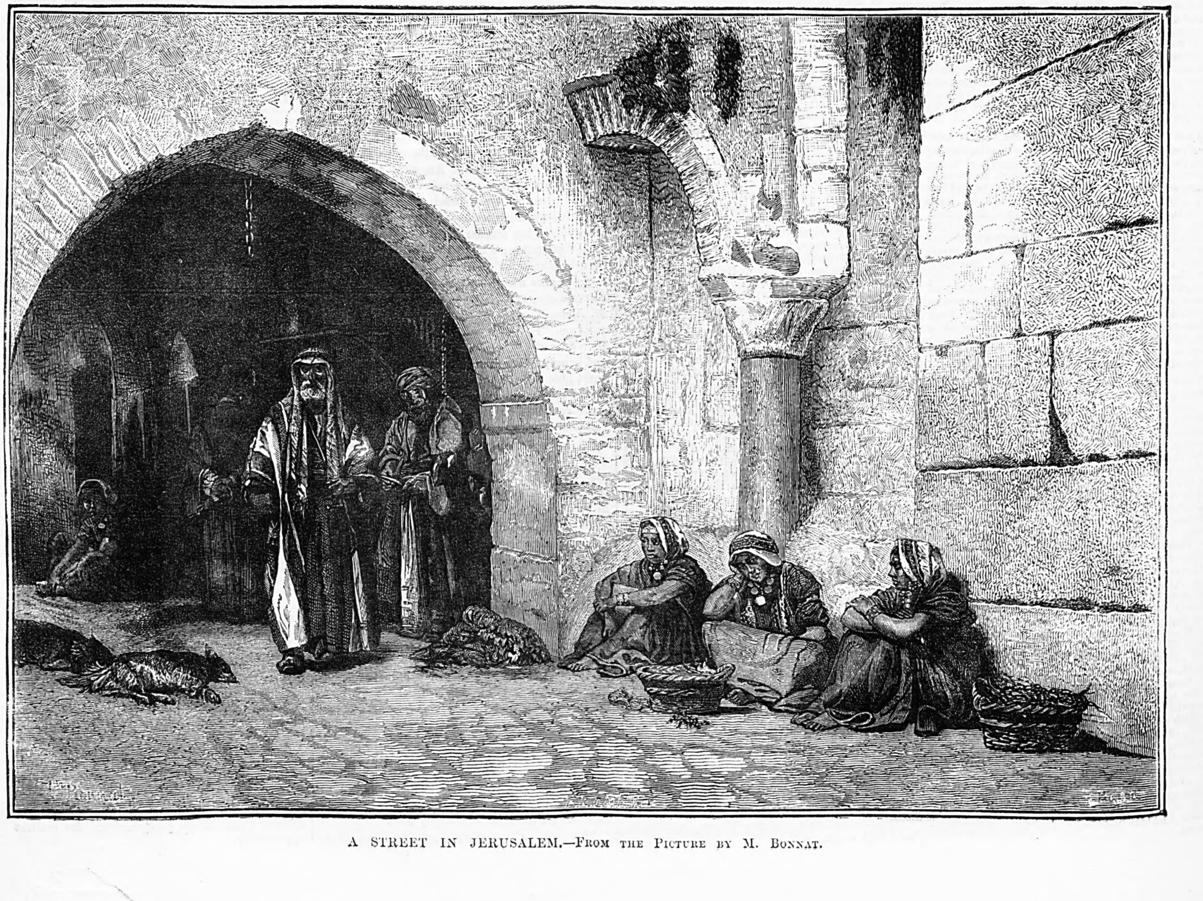


ORANGES IN EGYPT.—FROM THE PICTURE BY MADAME HENRIETTE BROWNE.

ORANGES IN UPPER EGYPT.

The first picture on this page, in continuation of our engravings from the finest works in the Exhibition of the French Academy of 1870, is from a painting by Madame Henriette Browne. It is called "Oranges." The figures are native children of Upper Egypt, eating the ripe fruit which is so abundant in that climate. Only a faint, inferential judgment can be formed from the engraving, of the colouring which would bear so important a part in the treatment of such a subject, but our artist has well reproduced the drawing and the unpretentious realism of the work. Nothing could be more natural than the attitude of those children. They are taken in the very act, and wait not an instant for the artist to fix them. The limbs of the girl in the foreground, and the *pose* of them, are remarkably correct, and the orange baskets, without being done with ostentatious minuteness, are evidently very effective bits of subordinate painting. Madame Henriette Browne showed several pictures this year. Her portrait of Pere Hyacinthe was considered one of the best of its class in the gallery. Speaking of that portrait M. A. de Pontmartin says, "One ought to thank Madame Browne for having prolonged, so to speak, the monastic existence and the oratorical attitude of the illustrious ex-carmelite; for though we are no longer permitted to see him in this character, he lives before us as carmelite and orator in this fine portrait." The same critic says of the work which we have engraved this week, "Madame Henriette Browne's display of pictures at this exhibition is most happily completed by a charming painting, Two Children playing with Oranges in Upper Egypt."

THE SUN.—Professor J. D. Steele says the result of observations now being taken shows that storms rage upon the sun with a violence of which we can form no conception. Hurricanes sweep over its surface with terrific violence. Vast cyclones wrap its fires into whirlpools, at the bottom of which our earth would lie like a boulder in a volcano. Huge flames dart out to enormous distances, and fly over the sun with a speed greater than that of the earth itself through space. At one time a cone of fire shot out eighty thousand miles, and then died away, all in ten minutes' time. There is nothing in these phenomena to alarm us.



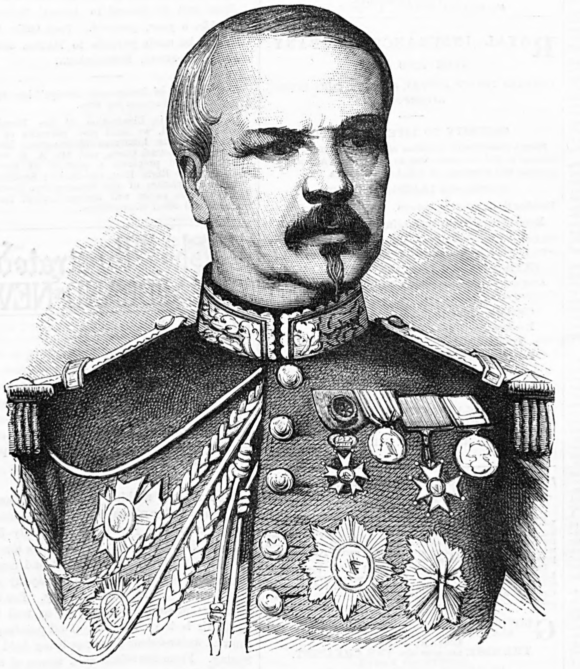
A STREET IN JERUSALEM.—FROM THE PICTURE BY M. BONNAT.

GENERAL FROSSARD.

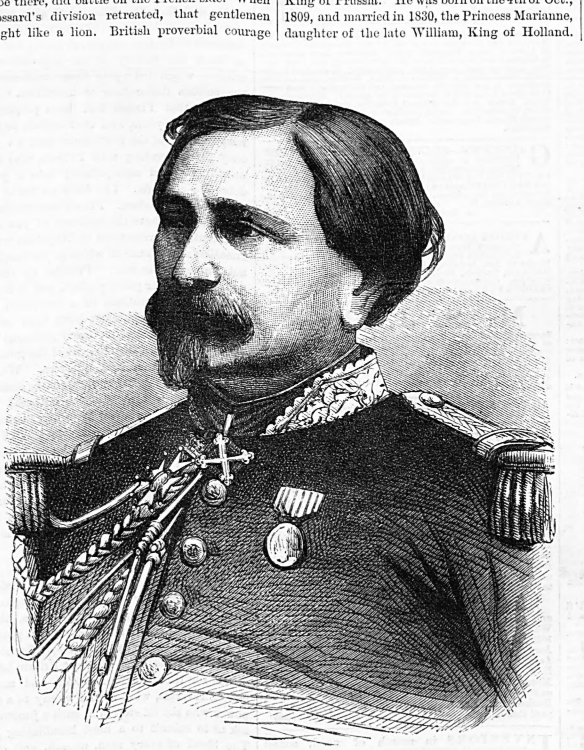
The adjoining portrait is that of a brilliant and experienced French commander, though he has met with a terrible defeat in the present war. Charles Auguste Frossard, Commander of the Second Corps of the Army of the Rhine, was born on the 26th of April, 1807. On leaving the Ecole Polytecnique in 1827 his accomplishments seemed to point out for him a career in the engineering department of the army. He was made a captain in 1833, a chief of battalion in 1846, and a Lieutenant-Colonel three years later, having been in the interval an ordnance officer to Louis Philippe. He distinguished himself in the seige of Rome, and on his return to Paris after that exploit he was appointed second in command at the Ecole Polytecnique, an office which he left with regret—for he is fond of theoretic military studies—when he was called away to direct, with the title of colonel, the construction of fortifications at Oran, in Algiers. He increased his reputation for strategy in the Crimean war, where he was a General of Brigade, and was made a General of Division on his return from Sebastopol. He was actively engaged in the brief war in Italy in 1859, and since that he has acted as aide-de-camp to the Emperor, and governor to the Prince Imperial, and in addition to those offices he has performed the duties of a member of the Commission of Defence, President of the Committee of Fortifications, and Commander of the Camp at Chalons. Among the officers of the French army General Frossard is perhaps the most accomplished master of theoretic engineering.

GENERAL BATAILLE.

The name of General Bataille became somewhat distinguished, at the outset of this War, as that of the officer to whom, under General Frossard, was due the credit of that first little flash of victory at Saarbrück, which tended so much to strengthen the hopes of the French nation of a speedy and brilliant termination of the struggle. He was born on the 11th of September, 1816. His first military feats were performed in Algiers. Young, active, full of spirit, he made for himself, in the *sortie* of Saint-Cyr, an honourable name among the officers of the army of Algiers. It was in that French colony that all his early successes were achieved. In 1850 he was made Commander of the Algerian Marksmen of Constantine and Bonn; next year he received the commission of Lieutenant Colonel, and three years later that of Colonel. In 1857 he was awarded the epaulettes of a General of Brigade. He distinguished himself in the war in Italy in 1859, where he commanded the First Brigade, under General Trochu. The first manoeuvre of his brigade at Solferino was specially mentioned in the official report from the army after the battle. On his return from Italy he received the command of a brigade of Infantry in the Imperial Guard. He has been an officer of the Legion of Honour since 1856; he was promoted to the grade of a General of Division in 1866. It was that Division which captured Saarbrück. "General Bataille," says one of his biographers, "has a grand air, and his bearing is that of authority. When he was only chief of battalion among the Turcos he was commonly called 'The General.'" This officer is indirectly connected with early events in the life of Napoleon III. His brother took part with General Montholon in the descent upon Vimeroux, near Boulogne, in 1840, and was tried and condemned for the political offence before the Court of Peers. This same brother of General Bataille was one af the Commission of Consultation of the 2nd of December, and was made a member of the Council of State in 1852.



GENERAL FROSSARD.



GENERAL BATAILLE.

A Lost Child.—The *Kansas City Times* gives an interesting account of the recent recovery of a little girl who was supposed to have been drowned in 1857 by falling into the Ohio River, near Louisville. The child, then about two years old, had wandered away from her home, and the only trace of her that ever could be discovered was her bonnet, found lying on the river bank. Eight year afterwards the parents removed to St. Louis, and other children were added to the family. Quite recently, however, the father received an anonymous letter from Kansas city, urging him to come to that place immediately if he wished to find his daughter whom he had supposed was drowned thirteen years ago. On reaching the place designated in the letter the father was received by a woman apparently on her death-bed, and a little girl of fifteen, who was pointed out as his "drowned child." The woman had stolen the little girl to revenge herself for some fancied wrong, and then removed to Cincinnati, where she had remained until the last six months. Finding that she had not long to live, the woman resolved to make reparation and restore the child, who, however, had always been treated kindly. The little girl begged her father not to separate her from her supposed mother, and the three returned to St. Louis in company.

An Englishman at Forbach.—In the hottest of the fight, an English tourist, happening to be there, did battle on the French side. When Frossard's division retreated, that gentlemen fought like a lion. British proverbial courage and energy were there shown as a glorious example, even amongst those brave columns of Frossard's divisions, retreating with regret before an overwhelming number; and when their *frères d'armes* were nearly exterminated, not only the English gentleman fought gallantly, but he saved the life of a wounded soldier; and he is now in Metz, modestly stopping in his hotel, where I intend to go and ascertain his name.—*Metz Correspondent of the Standard.*

Prince Albert of Prussia, killed in one of the late engagements, is the youngest brother of the King of Prussia. He was born on the 4th of Oct., 1809, and married in 1830, the Princess Marianne, daughter of the late William, King of Holland. The late Prince was divorced in 1849, but the King withheld his sanction until 1853. Eight days after it was granted he married, morganatically, the Countess Rosalie de Hohenau, then 38 years of age.

ENCAMPMENTS OUTSIDE STRASBURG & THIONVILLE.

Page 136 is occupied by three war pictures illustrative of early scenes in the campaign of the Army of the Rhine. Two engravings in other parts of this paper, explained in separate articles, represent the victualling of Strasburg, and the encampment of Turcos before the Saverne gate in that city. The first sketch on page 136 shows the artillery encampment outside the Austerlit gate, on the side of the city opposite to that occupied by the Turcos. It was pleasant weather when that scene was drawn, and men and horses seemed to enjoy the life. The country round Strasburg is not very picturesque, but the grass was soft, the air was pure, and for a time all went merrily under the sky outside the old French city. The engraving that runs across the centre of the same page indicates the strictness with which the gates of a fortified town are closed at a fixed hour in times of war. The bell is rung, and infantry, artillerymen and Turcos bid farewell to dames and new-made friends in Strasburg and hasten out to the camp, lest they be locked inside, and can render no account of themselves at the roll-call. The third scene is that of an encampment of soldiers of the line upon the slopes outside the ramparts of Thionville. Those men are of the 43rd regiment, and their camp is a large one. Thionville has seen a great deal of the strife of the last month, and its glacis have not been the most desirable of sites for an *al fresco* lodging. There, as at Strasburg, Metz, and the other cities of the French Rhine provinces, the beginning of the war was a pleasant excitement, but the fortunes of the struggle have rendered the state of things very gloomy, and the sound of laughter is no longer heard on the scenes of the encampments of three weeks ago.

Numbers of young men have left Tipperary, Waterford, and Cork to join the French army.

The Princess Royal.—Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Prussia has come to the assistance of the wives and families of those who are now obliged to serve in the army, with the generosity and practical tact she always shows when a good work is to be done. Not content with providing remunerative employments for those who reside in Potsdam, she has given orders that twenty families shall be furnished four times a week with good soup and meat from the kitchen of her farm at Bornstädt. For those who have lately become mothers a special diet is furnished from the kitchen of the New Palace. Her Royal Highness satisfies herself by personal inspection that her orders are properly carried out.

The world, says the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, begins to weary of Prussian victories. The duel is too much like that of an elephant with an unarmed pugilist to enable us to feel indifferent to the fate of the combatant whose bones are breaking under the dead weight of the elephantine knees. France is being ground between the upper and nether millstones of the German masses, and there is something dismal in the monotonous sameness of the stories of the so-called triumphs won by sheer virtue of dead weight. We hold that in the origin of this war the French were wrong; yet there is something in our blood which rises at the thought that Victory should, despite her laurels, march thus invariably with the largest legions. Of what avail is Spartan endurance, a magnificent dash, a splendid patriotism, or a superhuman courage against such cruel odds as our erring but gallant neighbours the French have to contend against?

Sheffield Field Naturalists' Society.—On Saturday a small but select party of the above Society, as previously arranged, enjoyed an excursion to Beauchief Abbey. The route taken was alongside Little London Dam, following the course of the river Sheaf until the railway was reached, thence crossing some fields, where an ochreous deposit in a ditch excited some attention in connection with the outcrop of iron ore in Hutcliff Wood. They then entered the wood, emerging therefrom near the lane leading to the Abbey, where a short time was spent in examining the ancient pile, thence proceeding to the pond opposite the hall. This was the limit of the excursion, and from here the return home was made by way of Abbey-dale Road, reaching Sheffield soon after half-past nine. A variety of interesting aquatic insects and mollusca were obtained from the several ponds. The delicate appearance of the seedling ferns on the banks of the stream was much admired; a few of the botanical specimens were collected. A small geological section by the side of the new road leading to the Eccleshall station gave rise to an animated conversation. Thus pleasantly closed the last excursion for this season.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CHRISTIAN WORLD."
PULVERMACHER'S INVENTIONS.

Sir,—Knowing that your valuable journal has ever been a medium of doing good, not only to the souls of men, but also to their bodies, as evinced by the great interest you have ever taken in the benevolent movements of the day, I have taken the liberty of addressing you upon a subject which often appears in your advertising columns, but which, I fear, either through ignorance of its great value, or the fear of being duped, is overlooked by a very large number of your readers.

I allude to medical galvanism, as applied for the cure of disease, but more especially that system of self-application invented by Mr. Pulvermacher. Allow me here to say that of the inventor I know but little (never having seen him but twice), but of his most wonderful appliances I have had some little experience, both in connection with my own remarkable cure (which is already before the public), and also that of many of my friends and neighbours, who have sought my opinion and advice. Much of my time has often been taken up in giving such advice, but the many warm expressions of gratitude which I am constantly receiving from those who are being cured, when all other means have failed, is of itself a rich reward.

Many of the cases which have come before me have been treated for months, and some for years, by men of undoubted ability and skill in the medical profession, who have taken the utmost pains, and exhausted every resource of the apothecary in vain, have been cured by Pulvermacher's system in a few weeks. I will not say that every case has met with like results; but I do affirm that the proportion of success which has attended my feeble efforts during the last two or three years would be sufficient to establish a first-class reputation for any medical man, especially considering that nearly all the patients had been under good medical treatment and many of them had been given up as hopeless.

I have known some instances wherein the bands have been pronounced a failure where the fault has entirely arisen from the want of perseverance. Patients have been foolish enough to expect that a disease which has been growing upon them for ten or twenty years, and which has defied all the medical treatment, would be cured by galvanism (as if by a miracle) in a few hours, and, because they have felt no immediate effects, have abandoned the process; but in a large majority of instances, where proper pains have been taken, the result has been highly satisfactory.

Will you allow me to recite a few facts?

Fifteen months since I lent a 10s. 6d. band to a lady who had been a great sufferer from neuralgia for four months. She stated she had been under the care of two eminent medical men (whose names she gave), but that she had not obtained the smallest relief; she had not been able to get one hour's sound sleep for many weeks; that she was almost in distraction from the constant severity of the pain. I placed the band upon her head, requesting her to wear it till the pain ceased. I called upon her a week after, when she expressed her deep gratitude for my kindness, stating that she was entirely free from pain, and had slept soundly all night for several nights, and that her strength was rapidly recovering. She begged that I would allow her to keep the band, which she should be glad to pay for, as she would feel herself unsafe without such a friend in the house.

Last summer a gentleman wrote to me from Horbury complaining of great nervous debility and prostration. He had tried medical aid in vain. He feared his age was against him, being near seventy; but if I thought there was hope he would try. I advised him to try the 50s. combined band. He did not receive any great benefit for several trials, wrote me one or two despairing letters; but I encouraged him to persevere. I heard nothing of him from October until six weeks since, when he wrote me a letter expressing his gratitude in no measured terms, stating that he was quite recovered—that he had enjoyed the best winter's health during the last winter which he had known for many years.

Thirteen months ago I met a well-known and highly respectable solicitor of this town, walking at a very feeble pace, as if in great pain, with a staff in one hand, and the other stretched out as stiff as if it had neither life nor power. I took the liberty to stop him and ask the nature of his complaint. He informed me that he was a great sufferer from rheumatism, which extended from his shoulders to the tip of his fingers, causing his arm to become quite stiff; that he had received the best medical advice, got no relief, but was in great pain night and day. I strongly advised him to try a galvanic band, which he ultimately desired I would obtain for him. It reached from the shoulder to the palm of the hand, coiled all round the arm. Ten days after he commenced to wear it he called upon me, placed the afflicted arm over his shoulder with perfect ease, exclaiming:—"Thanks to you, Seager; you are a capital doctor." In three months he was perfectly recovered, and has had no return of the malady.

Last October a minister wrote to me from Rugby, stating that he suffered severe pain, attended with great weakness in the loins and legs, so that he could not rise from his chair or walk anywhere without help. I advised him to get a spine band for the loins and a narrow one for the legs. He wrote me a few weeks after, expressing his warmest gratitude, and stating that in three weeks from the time he commenced to wear the bands he was so far recovered as to rise and walk anywhere without help.

About the same time a farmer residing at Bucklesham—a gentleman well known in this neighbourhood—called to seek my advice. He stated that his digestion was so weak that his stomach rejected the simplest diet, even a bowl of milk from his own dairy (which of course was minus the chalk), and he often felt as if he should fall on the fields from sheer faintness as he went about. I recommended him to try the 50s. combined band. He called again in six weeks, thanked me most heartily, and declared that he felt physically a new man. To use his own words, he said:—"I have no trouble to eat my food now, or to get about anywhere, for I feel as if I had new stamina in me."

Six weeks since one of the principal tradesmen of this town, well known to nearly every inhabitant, crawled into my house with great difficulty upon a crutch and a staff. He was in such great pain as to make it difficult for him to rehearse his case. At last he informed me that he had been treated for sciatica by a highly-respectable physician, whom he named, but that he had candidly assured him that he feared he was beyond the reach of medicine, and advised him to try galvanism; and that he had also recommended him to seek my advice as to the best mode of treatment. I obtained for him a suitable band, which he at once commenced to wear, and in a fortnight he cast away his crutches, and can now walk erect, and attend to his business. He told me a few days since that he had no pain now; only a little weakness remained, which he hoped would soon pass off; and that he was just preparing to go a journey of several hundred miles.

But I must forbear, or I could fill many of your columns with cases of which these are but a sample. Allow me to remark, in closing, that one of the greatest obstructions I have found to the use of these bands is the tenacity with which every patient naturally clings to the advice and opinion of the medical attendant. Many grievous sufferers, who have consulted me, I have every reason to believe might have been cured, but have felt unable to decide to make the trial until they had first consulted the opinion of their doctor, and yet they might, in many instances, as well have requested him te tell them the exact height of the mountains of the moon.

I do not say this in disparagement of the medical profession, for, as a rule, they are deeply devoted to their work, and multitudes of them are exceedingly skilful in that mode of healing to which they have nobly devoted their best energies; but seeing that galvanism is not necessarily a part of their training as medical men, many of them do not care to traverse a comparatively unbeaten track; and, therefore, they are totally unacquainted with its most wonderful healing powers.

I fear I am asking a long trespass on your valuable space; but, convinced that it is not more lengthy than the importance of the subject demands,—I remain, yours, in the cause of humanity,

Ipswich, Suffolk. ROBERT SEAGER.

⁂ We insert this letter because we know that the writer is quite incapable of misrepresentation, and that his object is one of pure philanthrophy. The testimony that he bears to the efficacy of the electrical bands and chains is certainly most remarkable.—ED. C. W., July 22, 1870.

The following TESTIMONY, Signed by the Elite of the English Medical Faculty has been received:—

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"Dated this 9th day of March, 1866.

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The following are some of the Agencies:—*Birmingham*—Mr. Barber, 17, Islington, Broad Street, and Miss Woodcock, 21, Cannon Street. *Banbury*—Mr. Walford, High Street. *Burton-on-Trent*—Mr. Owen, 101, High Street. *Buxton*—Mr. Bates, Bookseller. *Derby*—Messrs. Pike and Son, Corn Market. *Leamington*—Mr. Beck, Upper Parade. *Longton*—Mr. F. S. Wright, Bookseller. *Manchester* and *Stockport*—Messrs. Turner and Son, Music Dealers. *Newcastle-under-Lyme*—Mr. Dilworth. *Stafford*—Messrs. Wright, Booksellers. *Stoke-on-Trent*—Mr. Woolley, 63, Liverpool Road. [980

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NOTICES.

On and after October 1st the *Illustrated Midland News* will be posted to Annual Subscribers for 13s. a year, *prepaid*. Post Office Orders should be made payable to Hatton and Co., 108, New-street, Birmingham.

Our "A.B.C. of Ornamental Design" has again to give place to pictures of the War.

Next week, in illustration of the Birmingham Musical Festival, we shall give portraits of Mdlle. Titiens, Madame Lemmens Sherrington, Mr. Sims Reeves, Sir Michael Costa, and Mr. A. S. Sullivan. We have also prepared a portrait of the noble President, the Right Hon. the Earl of Bradford, and a full-page picture of the Birmingham Town Hall. In the same paper will appear several fine War pictures and other illustrations.

The Illustrated MIDLAND NEWS
BIRMINGHAM, AUGUST 27, 1870.

IT is hardly necessary to remind our Midland readers, or the lovers of music in the metropolis or the provinces generally, that the Birmingham Triennial Musical Festival opens on Tuesday next. No effort has been spared to render the meeting a brilliant one, and never on any previous occasion was there greater promise of success on the eve of the event.

We must say nothing this week of the array of pictures at the rooms of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, just hung and ready for the Autumn Exhibition, but on our table lies a card of invitation from the President and members, requesting the honour of our company at the private view at 12 o'clock to-day. For the information of strangers it may be as well to say that this is the exhibition of oil paintings, the show of water-colour drawings being held in the Spring. From the selection of names of exhibitors, published in our columns last week, there is reason to anticipate a remarkably good show. The rooms will be open to the public on Monday.

THANKS to the system of secret diplomacy indulged in by the Courts of Europe, the world knows very little of the actual causes of the awful war which is now raging. That Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen was a candidate for the throne of Spain, that the Emperor Napoleon objected to the nomination and insisted upon its withdrawal and something more, and that the King of Prussia refused to afford a sufficiently satisfactory reply to the demands of France, are patent facts; but none of us know the history of the negociations and schemes which led up to those incidents and to the sudden declaration of hostilities. People thought that France had been preparing for war for four years, and that as soon as she was ready she seized the first excuse (and a very poor one) for quarreling with Prussia, who was led unwillingly and unexpectedly into a patriotic defensive struggle. The facts go far to controvert that explanation. France was evidently not ready, and we have the evidence of two or three confidential conversations of Napoleon with diplomatists and friends in which he declared he was not prepared for war. Prussia, on the other hand, had all her plans perfect, and is now performing the operations of a campaign almost every detail of which must have been set down months ago in order that every regiment should drop into its place the moment of the going forth of the order from head-quarters. When the secret story of the last twelve months comes to be told we think it likely that the outbreak of war will be seen by the world in a new aspect, and those who are familiar with the *rôle* of recent Prussian diplomacy will not be surprised if it should turn out that, by strange devices, the Count Von Bismarck played upon the susceptibilities of France, and forced the Emperor into a declaration of war at the moment when he felt that the forces of Prussia could fight the battle under the greatest advantages.

HORRIBLE as is the war in itself, disastrous as it has been thus far to France, nothing could be more futile, and indeed mischievous, than an attempt at mediation in the present position of affairs. Let us apply the case of France for a moment to ourselves. If Great Britain had been at war for three or four weeks, and met with serious reverses, what should we say to a neutral power who should step in at such a juncture and ask us to submit to a most humiliating peace? The blood of every man, woman, and child in these islands would boil with indignation at the suggestion. We should ask our friends to stand aside and let us alone, while we girded our loins afresh for another and another struggle for the honour of our country. That is the attitude of France at the present moment, and we know that her patriotic susceptibilities are not less keen than our own. Sad as it is to onlookers, it is clear that the war must go on, and that France must have exhausted every chance of retrieving her fortunes before she gives in to her enemy. And we must not too hastily conclude that the game is over or nearly over. France as a State is nearly as strong as all Germany, and can bring almost as many soldiers into the field. She has met with defeat thus far, but her losses have not been much greater than those of Prussia—perhaps even not as great. We receive returns of French killed and wounded, but of those of Germany we only get vague statements that the losses are very serious. France is not beaten yet. While her soldiers kill man for man her armies may fall back but the nation cannot be conquered.

NEWS OF THE MIDLANDS.

It is stated that a statue of Lady Godiva, belonging to the Liverpool Town Council, has been offered to Coventry, and declined.

At a meeting held in the Guildhall, Leicester, on Monday, it was decided to raise a fund for the relief of the wounded in the Franco-Prussian war.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE YEOMANRY.—Permission has been obtained for the Yeomanry to assemble for permanent duty at Lichfield, on Wednesday, September 28, and the inspection will consequently take place on Tuesday, October 4.

THE DERBYSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Of the forthcoming Derbyshire Agricultural Show, to be opened on the 28th of September the *Derby Murcury* says:—We are in a position to assure our readers thus early that the show will be of surpassed interest. Already there are more than 150 head of stock entered, and 160 horses. The entries in other departments correspondingly numerous, and everthing at present evidences that our country agricultural gathering will be the largest ever held in Derby.

THE GUN TRADE.—A new method of converting the Enfield muzzle-loading rifle into a breech-loader has been tried in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. It is the invention of Mr. Restall, of Birmingham. The breech arrangement consists of a steel block, which is moved horizontally to the right by the cocking of the rifle, and when the cartridge is inserted the pull of the trigger closes the breech and fires the rifle simultaneously. The chief merits of the invention are rapidity, simplicity, and cheapness. In the hands of a rifleman, who had not seen the weapon before, it made twenty-seven rounds in two minutes, with a score of sixty-eight points. The Enfield, it is stated, can be converted into a breech-loader on this principle at a cost of 5s. each.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.—On Saturday the Prince and Princess Christian visited Lord and Lady Lyttelton at Hagley Hall. They arrived at Hagley Station at 1-40, and at once drove to the Hall. Lady Susan Melville was the lady in attendance on the Princess, and Prince Christian was attended by Captain Eliot. The Marquis and Marchioness and Miss Montgomery come in by the train, and joined the party at the Hall, which, in addition to Lord and Lady Lyttelton and the members of the family, consisted of Lady Ward, Sir Edmund and Lady Lechmere, Sir Thomas and Lady Winnington, Mrs. Pepys, and the Rev. Mr. Melville. Groups of villagers assembled near the Hall to witness the arrival of the visitors, and Mr. W. Field's Worcestershire Band was in attendance, and struck up the National Anthem when their Royal Highnesses drove up. After luncheon, the party went into the park, and enjoyed a tour among its ever-pleasing scenes. The stay of the Prince and Princess was only a short one. Soon after four they left the Hall for the station, and returned to Malvern by the 4-15 p.m. train. Mr. Field's band played a selection of music during the afternoon.

THE MOIRA COLLIERIES.—The executors of the late Marquis of Hastings have sold the collieries belonging to his lordship's estate to his eldest sister, the Countess of Loudoun. The amount paid for them was about £170,000. These collieries, lying on the borders of Leicestershire and Derbyshire, between Burton-on-Trent and Ashby-de-la-Zouch, are of considerable extent. The first shaft of this group was sunk in the commencement of the present century by the first Marquis of Hastings, better known as the Earl of Moira, who gave that name to the colliery and adjoining village. For some years the works were carried on with varying success, but of late they have been a valuable source of income to the Hastings family. The acquisition of these collieries by the Countess of Loudoun is likely to increase their value considerably, as her ladyship is the owner of extensive coal-beds in the neighbourhood, purchased since inheriting the estates of Sir Charles Hastings, Bart., of Willersley. Great satisfaction is felt among the mining population of the district in the transfer of this property, as the Countess and Mr. Hastings, from their long residence at Willersley Hall, are well known by all classes in the vicinity.

THE WORKMEN'S INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—Reporting upon the International Show at Islington the *Times*, referring to exhibits from the Midland Counties, says:—The Birmingham glass, of which there is now a very considerable display, is well worthy of careful examination. In some of the cases articles are shown in different stages of progress; and the specimens range from the most simple to the most elaborate. They are usually remarkable for great clearness and brilliancy of the metal, often for beauty of form, and sometimes for exquisite engraving. There are some excellent examples of engraved glass sent by the Society for Promoting the Employment of Women, and giving evidence of skilful hands as well as of artistic spirit. Among the remaining classes, attention should be given to the Sheffield exhibits of cutlery and arms. The case of Messrs. Brookes and Crookes is especially worthy of notice, not only from the excellent quality and workmanship of the articles, but also from the general lowness of the prices attached to them. There is a very fine display of carving tools, of exquiste temper and finish, exhibitad by J. B. Addis, also of Sheffield, and a set of razors by W. Nelson, showing ornamental work of great beauty produced by the grindstone alone. In the small class of saddlery and leather work there are some good exhibits, especially of saddles and portmanteaus.

THE HEREFORD MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

The grand annual Festival of the Three Choirs (Gloucester, Worcester, and Hereford) commenced on Tuesday. The principal solo vocalists engaged were Mdlle. Titiens, Madame Sinico, Miss Edith Wynn, Madame Patey, Miss Marion Severn, Mr. Vernon Rigby, Mr. Montem Smith, Mr. Santley, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. The conductor of the Festival performances was Mr. G. Townshend Smith, organist of Hereford Cathedral. The object of these Festivals is the augmentation of a fund for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the clergy of the three dioceses. This is the one hundred and forty-seventh celebration of the Festival. It is under the especial patronage of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and of their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge. The President is Lord Bateman, lord lieutenant of the county, whilst the vice-presidents are the Lords Bishops of Hereford, Gloucester and Bristol, and Worcester. Amongst the stewards are the High Sheriff (G. S. Hutchinson, Esq.,) the Marquis of Hartington, the Earl Somers, Viscount Hereford, Lord Saye and Sele, Sir Percy Herbert, the Dean of Hereford, Coloned Windsor Clive, M.P., the Hon. P. S. Wyndham, M.P., the Hon. A. Walsh, M.P., Sir Herbert Croft, Bart., M.P., tho Rev. Sir G. Cornewall, Bart., Sir W. Milman, Bart., Sir W. Curtis, Bart., Sir J. Russell Bailey, M.P., Sir R. Baggallay, Q.C., and the principal clergy and gentry of the county. The choral force was selected from the three cathedral choirs, from Bristol, and from the choral societies of Hereford, Gloucester, Worcester, Bradford and London. The band numbered upwards of sixty first-rate instrumentalists, with Mr. H. Blagrove, as principal; Mr. J. T. Wilby, principal second violin; Mr. R. Blagrove, principal viola; Mr. Petit, principal first, and Mr. H. Chipp, second violoncello; Mr. Howell, principal double bass. The wind instruments had as chiefs—Mr. Radcliff, flute; Mr. Barret, oboe; Mr. Lazarus, clarionet: Mr. Waetzig, fagotto; Mr. C. Harper, cornet; Mr. P. Harper, trumpet; Messrs. Hawkes, Horton, and Healey, tromboni; Mr. Thompson, tympani. The programme was arranged thus: Tuesday morning, in the Cathedral, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, sustained by Mdlle. Titiens, Madame Patey, Miss Edith Wynne, Miss Marion Severn, Mr. Montem Smith, Mr. Vernon Rigby, Mr. Santley, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. Tuesday evening, in the Cathedral, Haydn's *Creation*, sustained by Mdlle. Titiens, Madame Sinico, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Santley; and Mr. Joseph Barnby's sacred Idyll, written by Mr. Arthur Matthison, in which Mdlle. Titiens, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Lewis Thomas took part. Wednesday morning was performed of Mr. Arthur Sullivan's *Prodigal Son*, produced for the first time at Worcester last year, and Spohr's fine Oratorio, *The Last Judgment*, his most popular as well as his noblest effort in sacred composition. The day's performance closed with Mozart's 12th Mass, or Service. In the evening of the same day the first concert was given in the Shire-hall. The programme contained a Symphony by Beethoven, No. 4, in B flat, part of Spohr's Sixth Violin Concerto, a selection from *Lorely*, and plenty of light vocal music. On Thursday morning the "Reformation Symphony," *Christus*, Mendelssohn's 42nd Psalm, a cantata by Mr. Holmes entitled "Praise ye the Lord," and a selection of music from several of Handel's oratorios. In the evening of the same day the second concert in the Shire-hall. The chief attraction was a selection from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, in which Mdlle. Titiens, Madame Sinico, and Mr. Santley were engaged. The programme set down for Friday was, first, the work which holds the same position in sacred services as the National Anthem does on festal occasions, viz., Handel's Oratorio the *Messiah*, rendered with Mozart's additional accompaniments. The last event arranged for the festival was the chamber concert in the College Hall, affording an opportunity of criticising the work of an amateur in the shape of a string quartett, the composition of Mr. J. Lodge Eilerton, as well as of listening to Spohr's sestett in C major, and Mendellssohn's otett in E flat.

The Festival has been of a successful and satisfactory character. The *Elijah* on Tuesday afternoon created a profound sensation amongst the crowd of persons congregated in the Cathedral. The first chorus, "Help, Lord," was, says the correspondent of the *Standard*, a vocal appeal which vibrated through the building and was particularly soul stirring. The duet and chorus, "Lord, bow Thine ear," sustained by Miss Edith Wynne and Miss Marion Severn, was spoilt by false intonation as well as by the unsteadiness of the choir; but the first aria, "If with your hearts," sung by Mr. Montem Smith, was effectively rendered. The double quartet, "For He shall give His angels charge over them," sung by Miss Edith Wynne, Miss Marion Severn, Mr. Pritchard, Miss L. Broad, Mr. Montem Smith, Mr. Herbert, Mr. Swire, and Mr. Everett, went well together, but suffered, like the duet, from the sharp singing of one of the sopranos. The chorus, "Blessed are the men," went remarkably smoothly, and the succeeding number, "Baal, we cry to thee," was thoroughly effective, as was also the whole scene between Elijah, Ahab, and the people, Mr. Santley's singing telling with wonderful effect. The few notes allotted to the youth resounded with remarkable clearness, whilst the contrast between one voice and the full-toned choir was appreciated when the magnificent chorus "Thanks be to God," burst on the ear. With this chorus, as is well known, the first part of the oratorio concludes. But little time was allowed between the parts, and after the lapse of about five minutes, Mdlle. Titiens and Madame Patey, with Mr. Vernon Rigby, took the places of three of the former singers, and the performance was continued. The singing of Mdlle. Titiens and Madame Patey soon atoned for all shortcomings in the first part. "Hear ye Israel" was rendered in a style which no other singer can surpass, very few approach, and, indeed, Mdlle. Titiens' singing throughout the second part was magnificent. The contralto voice of Madame Patey was also delightful to listen to, her delivery of the soothing air "O rest in the Lord," almost produced a murmur of sympathy and satisfaction. The whole of the music of the second part was far better rendered than that of the first, the choruses being sung with more precision and effect.

The introductory prelude to the *Creation* "The Representation of Chaos," has perhaps never been heard to greater advantage, says the correspondent of the *Standard*, than in the Cathedral on Tuesday evening. The descriptive sounds reaching the ear through the half-lighted aisles, carried with them the idea of mist and haze, which was only dispelled when the announcement was made "And it was light." Mdlle. Titiens's singing of "The marvellous work" was superb. Her high C seemed literally to pierce through the darkness of the distant transept, Mr. Lewis Thomas's rendering of "The foaming billows" was in another way equally effective. The chorus, "The heavens are telling," we need not add, came out wonderfully. In the second part, Madame Sinico's rendering of "On mighty pens" was a feature in the performance, as also was Mr. Santley's singing of "Now heaven in fullest glory." The trio, "On Thee each living soul" was not executed by either soloists or orchestra as it should have been; but the choruses "The Lord is Great," and "Achieved is the glorious work," produced their usual effect. The oratorio is generally considered to be less grand than pleasing, but on this occasion the building seemed to lend to it some of its nobleness, and it did not fail in impressing the audience with the majesty of the subject. Mr. Barnby's Idyll, *Rebekah*, brought the performance to a close. With the performance of his "sacred idyll," which he conducted himself, Mr. Barnby, says the *Times* critic, could hardly have felt otherwise than satisfied. The Herefordshire singers did themselves infinite credit by the manner in which they got through choruses not merely strange to them, but complex and difficult as well; the orchestra, which has no very easy task to accomplish, took infinite pains; and the solo singers Mdlle. Titiens (Rebekah), Mr. Vernon Rigby (Isaac), and Mr. Lewis Thomas (Eliezer), were fairly irreproachable. To have heard his music, and some of the best passages in it, sung as it was sung on this occasion—more especially the solos of Mdlle. Titiens, who always does her utmost towards insuring the success of a new work—should encourage the young composer to new exertions.

The performance on Wednesday at the Cathedral was a very long one, consisting of Mr. Arthur Sullivan's "Prodigal Son," Spohr's "Last Judgment" entire, and Mozart's so-styled "Twelfth Mass," The Prince and Princess Christian, came from Stoke Edith, accompanied Lady Thorley and a large party intending to pass the Festival week at Hereford. As they did not arrive till half-past one, they could only hear the second half of the selection; and thus escaped the "Prodigal Son" and part I. of the "Last Judgment." Nevertheless, says the authority quoted above, the very admirable performance of Mr. Sullivan's work, under the composer's own direction, with Madlle. Titiens, Madame Patey, Messrs. Vernon Rigby and Santley in the solos, was, for reasons easy to understand, the most interesting feature of the programme; and the Royal and distinguished visitors may, therefore, be condoled with on having experienced a decided loss. The "Prodigal Son" gains with each new hearing; and on that account alone it is to be hoped that its composer may be already engaged in something else of the kind, if not on something of a still more ambitious form. The performance of Wednesday did not terminate till half-past four.

The neutrality of Belgium is being violated by numbers of wolves and wild boars flying before the Prussians into the Ardennes.

THE WAR.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

WORMS, AUG. 15.*

The last week has, contrary to all expectation, passed off without a great battle. For once the Prussians have abandoned their policy of pressing impetuously forward after a victory, and have spent seven days in moving gradually forward into their new position fronting the Moselle. This has been a work of great difficulty. The country is poor and thickly wooded, and in many places marshy, while in other parts the spurs of the Vosges mountains render the roads arduous and heavy for the baggage train. The weather, too, has been greatly against Prussia, the tremendous rains which fell for about three days, without intermission, having made the roads (already cut up by the French army train) almost impassable. Each day, however, brought news of the forward movement of the Crown Prince's army. Hagenau, Saverne, Phalysburg were in turn occupied, until on Saturday it had passed Lunoville, and was within sight of Nancy. The other portion of the army had also moved forward, so that the whole line had swung round, and were now facing west instead of south. In the meantime Strasbourg had become isolated, and a portion of the Baden army have sat down before it. The statements concerning its abilities for defence vary very greatly. Some asserts that the garrison is 9,000 strong; while others as positively affirm that there is only one regiment within its walls. If the former statement is true, Strasburg can only succumb after a regular siege—that is, supposing it to be provisioned. Accounts, however, agree in stating that before its investment the scarcity of provisions was very great, and as the population of the town is swelled by the inhabitants of the country round, who have fled to its walls for shelter, it is evident that it must, unless the state of things has been greatly misrepresented, very speedily surrender from starvation. On Friday and Saturday, as it became known that the German army had reached its desired point, the country was in a state of much anxious suspense. It was expected that at any moment the news of the mighty battle which is to decide the fate of France might arrive. Friday and Saturday passed, and though the place was full of rumours that desperate fighting was going on near Metz, the official telegrams came at very long intervals and said nothing. On Sunday morning we were astonished at the receipt of news that the French had evacuated Nancy, and that it had fallen into the German hands without a struggle. After the boastings of the French newspapers, this abandonment of Nancy was a confession of weakness which spoke volumes. The consequences too of the surrender of Nancy are much more important than the mere loss of the city. Within half-an-hour's ride of Nancy is the main line of railway between Metz and Paris, and this cut, the Prussian army are as near to Paris as the French army at Metz. As yet we are in ignorance of what has become of the French. They may be up near Metz—they may have retreated upon the line of the Meuse. In either case the battle must come off shortly, as the line of the Meuse is not more than twenty miles in the rear of that of the Moselle. The hospitals in this part of the country have been crowded with German and French wounded, but the great proportion has been sent away to Frankfort and the other large towns, so as to clear the hospitals near the frontier as much as possible for the wounded in the next engagement. I find it altogether impossible to make my way any further forward than this, indeed, even if permission were given, it would be difficult in the extreme to get forward. No provisions of any sort are to be procured, and the train of the army, large and well arranged as it is, have the very greatest difficulty in taking on the necessary food for the men. The peasants are utterly hostile, there are no means of conveyance whatever, and no means of sending back any news that might be obtained. Consequently my face will be turned rather to the rear than to the front, for even at that distance from the scene of action one is exposed to as much suspicion as if we were in the heart of the scene of action. The idea both among the French and German people as to that vague creature known to them as a spy, are singular in the extreme. What could a spy be doing at Mannheim or Worms, nearly eighty miles from the front? What news he could convey, or what probable good he could do to his employer no one can imagine, but the absurdity of the thing is by no means patent to the peasant here. He conceives that every stranger he sees must be engaged in the most dangerous machination against the State. All this would be very funny were it not very annoying, and I shall breathe freely again when I get to some place where man, woman, and child does not make a point of turning round and staring at me. This is a quiet old city, and has had its period of greatness. The Cathedral is a very fine one; but even a fine Cathedral becomes a little wearisome after three days with nothing else to do but to walk round and round it, inside and out. I fear that the war will be a long one, and that, as far as correspondents are concerned, it might as well be taking place in Tartary as in France. Now that some of the French correspondents have been killed in action, and that the English correspondents have all been sent back to Paris, we shall hear very little indeed of what is going on within the closely guarded circle.

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* This letter was delayed in transmission.

TO THE MUSE.

Alas! For me, who call upon thy name,
With tears, and sighs, and smitings of the breast,
In faint hope following a hopeless quest—
Thou hast no answer but a cry of blame,
Which wrings my ears, and fills my life with shame!
—Yet thou, aforetime, hast been heard to speak
In other accents, when thy grace became
Immortal glory to the blind old Greek.
And one or two, in these degenerate days,
Live in the light of thy majestic eyes;
Deep in their hearts thy purest influence lies,
Their brows are bound with never-fading bays:
—Whilst I, unhappy, hear thy voice afar
Warning me back from an unequal war.

D. CHRISTIE.

NEW PATENTS.

(Contributed by Messrs. Payne and Talbot, 1, Bennett's-hill, and 56, Ann-street, Birmingham.)

Improvements in machinery for manufacturing nails. E. T. Hughes, London. (A communication from D. Reed, R. M. and T. S. Bassett, Birmingham,) New-haven, U.S.)

Improvements in kilns or ovens for burning or baking bricks, tiles, or other articles of plastic material and lime. J. E. Core, Halifax, Yorkshire.

Improvements in apparatus for lifting potatoes and other roots. G. H. Harrison, Carstairs, Lanarkshire, N.B.

Improvements in governors for steam and other engines. W. Clark, Plumstead, Kent.

Improvements in, or connected with, the moulding or casting of metals, and in apparatus to be employed therein. W. and R. Mushet, Dalkeith, Midlothian, N.B.

Improvements in the manufacture of artificial flowers and foliage. A. M. Clark, London. (A communication from O. E. Fillon, Paris.)

An improved apparatus for feeding or supplying steam generators with water, which said apparatus is applicable to the raising and forcing of water and other liquids. T. Brown, London. (A communication from C. Faure, Grenoble, France.)

Improvements in ports, harbours, and landing stages. R. Richardson, Westminster.

Improvements in the application of power for the propulsion of vehicles on common roads or railways, and in apparatus connected therewith. A. M. Clark, London. (A communication from H. A. Corbin, Paris.)

Improved apparatus for injecting and reducing liquids to a state of spray or minute sub-division. W. E. Newton, London. (A communication from A. S. du Fay, Paris.)

Improved apparatus for generating steam or elastic vapours for actuating motive-power engines. W. E. Newton, London. (A communication from J. B. Givord, Paris.)

Improvements in the manufacture of artificial leather. P. C. Thamson, London. (A communication from T. Lörensen Ebeltoft, Denmark.)

Improvements in Jacquard apparatus. J. Morris, Belfast, Ireland.

Improved machinery or apparatus and processes for the manufacture of paper and other pulp from wood and other fibrous materials. J. Felber, Manchester.

Improvements in gim carriages and their slides. W. E. Newton, London. (A communication from J. W. Wilson, New York, U.S.)

Improvements in steam boilers. Sir W. Fairbairn, Manchester.

Improved arrangements for applying steam power in cultivating land. R. W. Thomson, Edinburgh, Midlothian, N.B.

Improvements in preparing Iceland and Irish moss for use as food. A. V. Newton, London. (A communication from W. J. Rand, Brooklyn, New York, U.S.)

Improvements in moulds used in stereotyping and in apparatus for producing the same. A. M. Clark, London. (A communication from H. A. Marinoni, Paris.)

Improvements in apparatus for cleaning grain and seeds. A. V. Newton, London. (A communication from F. Wegmann, Paris.)

Improvements in the construction of vessels, and in the means of propelling the same. W. E. Newton, London. (A communication from J. L. Arman, Bordeaux, France.)

An improved machine for making cut-nails. H. Scheaerle, D. Gugisperg, and C. Scheib, New York, U.S.

Improvements in the manufacture of soles and heels for boots and shoes, and in apparatus employed in such manufacture. W. J. Barron and E. C. Barron, London. (A communication from L. Hurtault, Paris.)

Improvements in woven fabrics, applicable for towelling and other purposes, and in the method of, and apparatus for, weaving the same. W. Haslam, Bolton, Lancashire.

An improved mode or process for obtaining glycerine from soap maker's spent lyres. W. E. Newton, London. (A communication from B. T. Babbitt, New York, U.S.)

Improvements in journal bearings and axle-boxes, chiefly designed for carriages or vehicles running upon rail and tramways. W. R. Lake, London. (A communication from G. F. Lynch, Wisconsin, U.S.)

(Patents upon which the £50 Stamp Duty has been paid).

Improved means and apparatus for preparing size for warps or other purposes. T. Tunstill, Burnley, Lancashire.

An improved mode or improved means of colouring or ornamenting fabric and other surfaces, and of preparing printing surfaces. C. E. Brooman, London. (A communication from C. Depoully, Paris.)

Improvements in watches. A. Cohen, Birmingham. (A communication from H. Ranuz, Switzerland.)

Improvements in coining presses. J. M. Napier, Lambeth, Surrey.

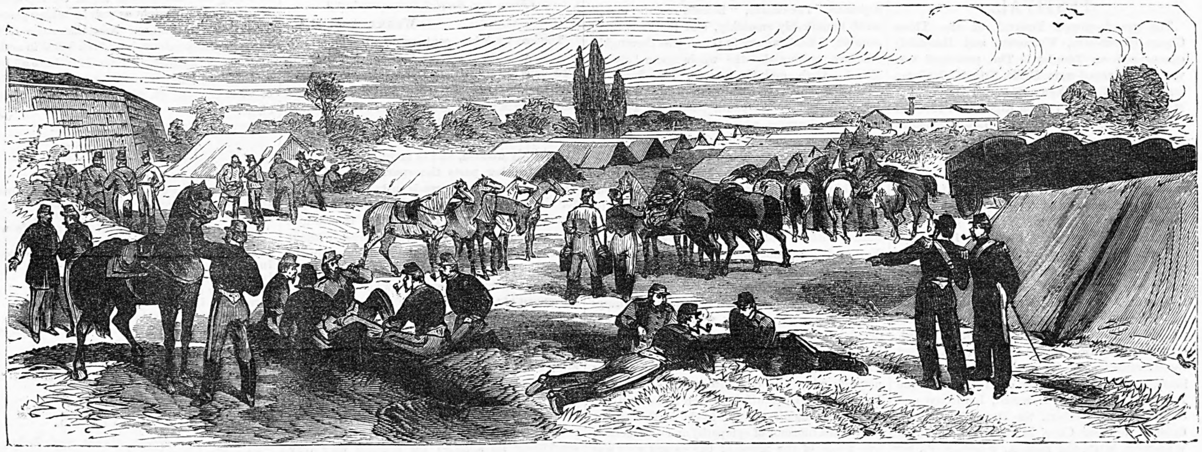
An improvement in the manufacture of towels. J. Cash and J. Cash, jun.

Improvements in, and applicable to, hydraulic and other presses, parts of which improvements may be employed for or with other descriptions of machinery. W. T. Watts and D. J. Fleetwood, Birmingham.

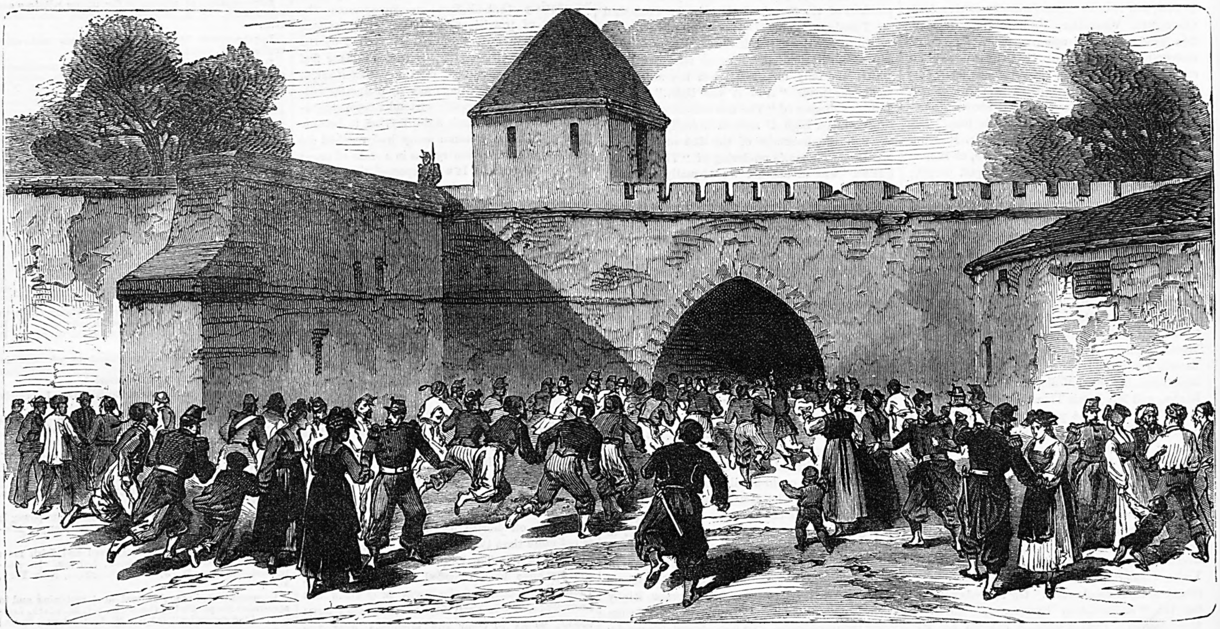
Improvements in bottles, and in the manufacture of caps or covers for the same. A. S. Hocker, London.

Improvements in furnaces, and in processes and apparatus in connection therewith, principally applicable to metallurgical operations. C. W. Siemens, Westminster.

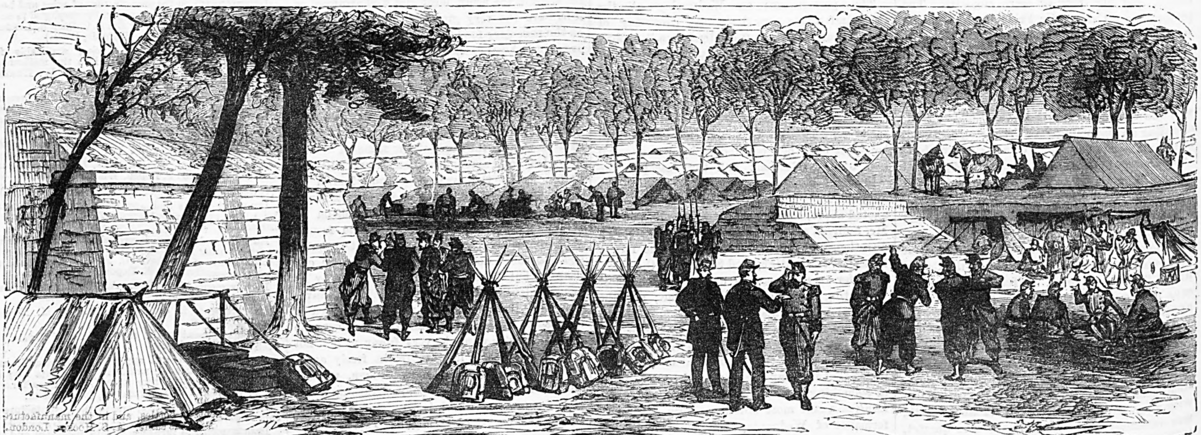
Improvements in cigar and pipe lights, and in their mode of construction, composition, and manufacture. H. J. Simlick, Bow, Middlesex.



THE WAR: THE FRENCH ARTILLERY CAMP OUTSIDE STRASBURG. *(See page 133.)*



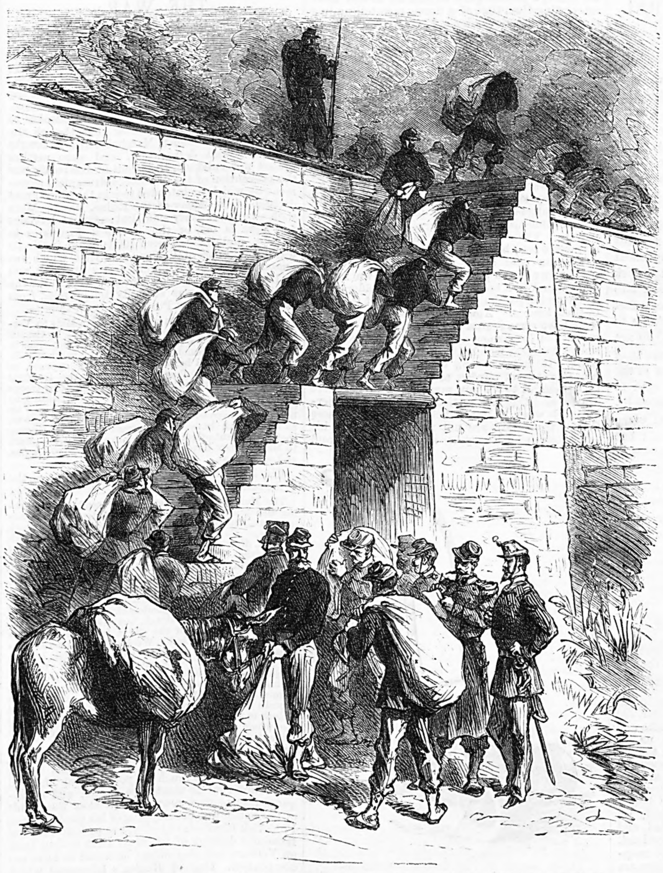
THE WAR: THE HOUR OF THE CLOSING OF THE GATES OF STRASBURG. *(See page 133.)*



THE WAR: THE ENCAMPMENT OF FRENCH REGIMENTS OF THE LINE ON THE GLACIS OF THIONVILLE. *(See page 133.)*

THE VICTUALLING OF STRASBURG FORTRESS.

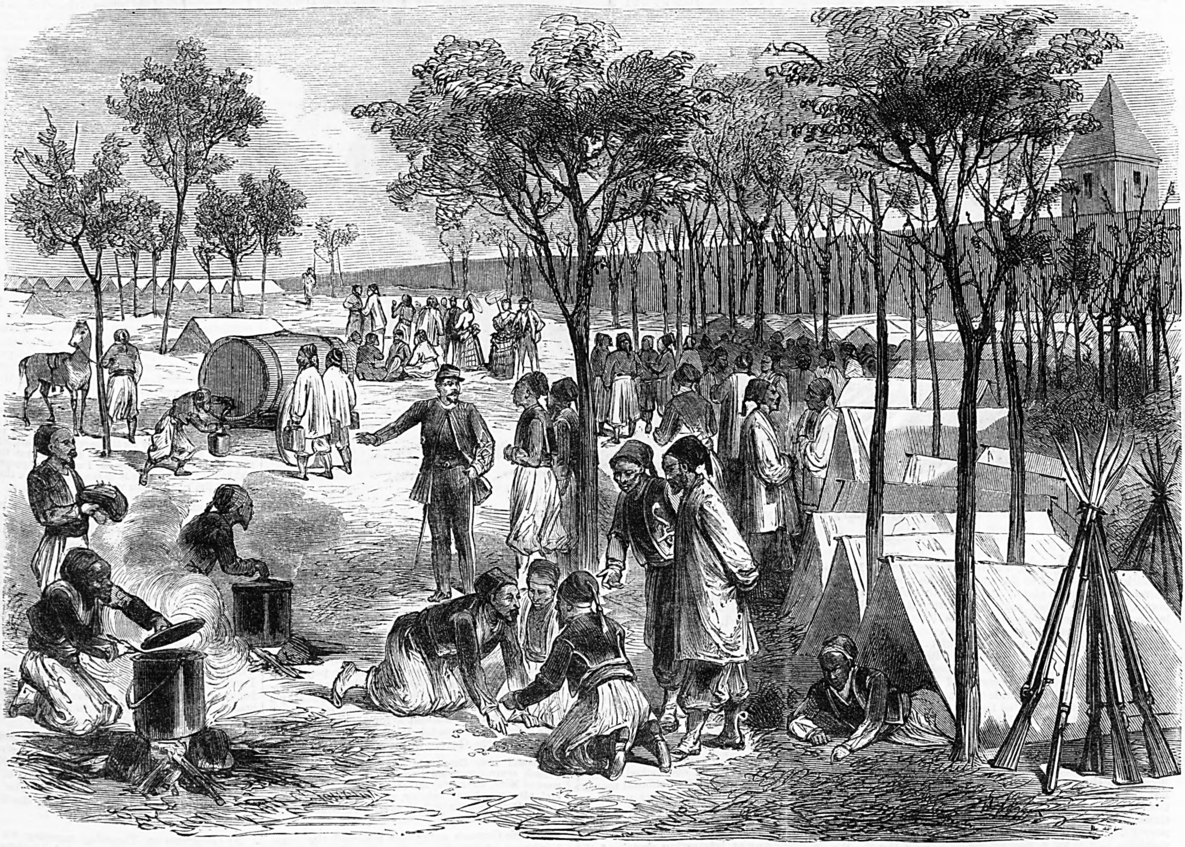
The picturesque sketch on this page represents the soldiers of the 87th Regiment of France carrying provisions up the ramparts of Strasburg. That ancient and interesting city is a strong fortress, well defended and prepared to stand a siege. It was bombarded last week, but the cannon balls came from the other side of the Rhine and were not calculated to do much damage to the city. The little bit of wall and rampart in our picture conveys an idea of strength, and the little business going on in the foreground looks as if the French intended to prepare for a long investment. It is highly important for the French that they should keep the enemy out of this city. While the fortress of Strasburg remains in Imperial hands it will not be possible for the Prussians to hold any considerable portion of the French territory on the border of the Rhine. It would be a sad blow indeed for the French to lose Strasburg. It is a city of which they are very proud. It has played an important part in their history, and has been intimately associated with the career of Napoleon III., who entered the place in disguise in 1836, attempted to raise a revolt, and got himself, in the end, banished to America; but he returned to the same city in triumph in 1850 as President of the French Republic, and he hoped, when he set out from St. Cloud a month ago to join the army of the Rhine, that he would be able to display before the eyes of Strasburg in a still stronger light the glory of the house of Bonaparte. Thus far that anticipation has not been realized, but we will not believe the fortunes of the Emperor are wholly desperate while he has another blow to strike. The city of Strasburg is built upon the site of the old Roman town Argentoratum. Its Cathedral is the finest Gothic building in existence, surmounted by the tallest spire in the world, 468 feet above the pavement, and 64 feet higher than St. Paul's. That wonderful tower was begun in the year 1277, and completed a hundred and fifty years later. The earliest attempt at printing was made at Strasburg in 1436, just before the Cathedral tower was finished. Strasburg has been in the hands of France since 1681, when it was ceded to her by Austria, during the progress of the Thirty Years War. As in all the districts comprising the valley of the Rhine, there is a German element in the character of the people in and around Strasburg, but the traditions and the glory of the city are French, and it could not be made Prussian now without doing great violence to the feelings, the habits, and the associations of the citizens.



THE WAR: THE VICTUALLING OF STRASBURG BY THE FRENCH 87TH REGIMENT.

TURCO ENCAMPMENT BEFORE STRASBURG.

This is a striking and characteristic scene. It is, in effect, an Eastern encampment in central Europe. These Turco troops of the French army are here encamped, under the ramparts of Strasburg, before the Saverne Gate. The "children of Algiers," as they are called in Paris, take their places very naturally on the green earth, making the best of the weather of the Bas Rhine country, under the meagre shadow of skeleton trees. Some are cooking, some counting their money, and doing, perhaps, a little extempore gambling, and some are drawing water. It is camp life to the letter, but it does not last long. The too rapid events of this brief war soon changed the scene round Strasburg. The Turcos were called away to battle, to defeat, and to the not altogether unpleasant life of prisoners of war in Prussia. The military pic-nicking outside the Strasburg ramparts has ceased for a time. The city is invested; its soldiers are carefully packed within the walls ready for sortie or defence, and the chief objects of observation are the German bombshells which arrive from time to time unceremoniously from Kehl.



THE WAR: THE ENCAMPMENT OF TURCOS UNDER THE RAMPARTS OF STRASBURG.

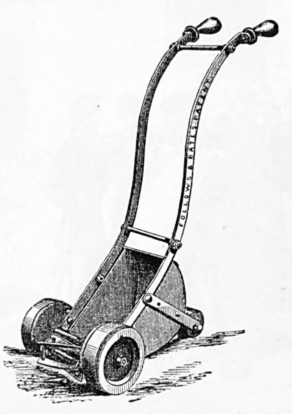
THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AT OXFORD.

[SEVENTH NOTICE.]

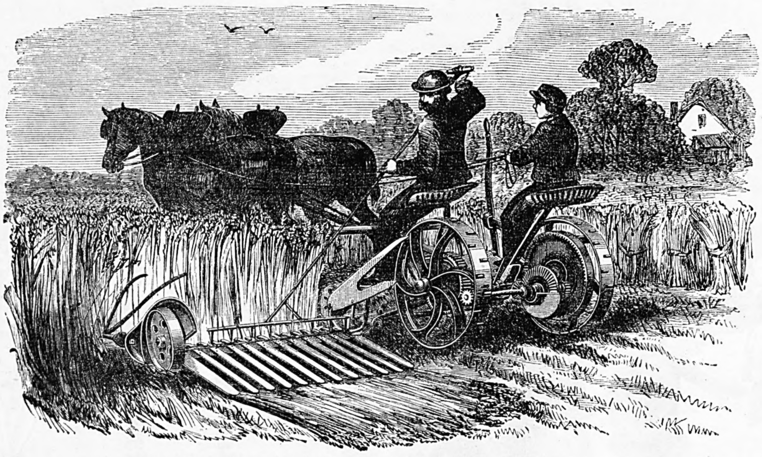
We must hasten, before the harvest work, at least among our northern readers, is finished, to present a picture of an implement which was the subject of a good deal of attention on the Oxford Show-ground, exhibited as it was on the very eve of corn-cutting, and while the mowing of the sparse hay-crop of 1870 was still fresh in the minds of thousands of country visitors. There is no agricultural implement of modern invention whose importance is so well and widely recognised as that of the horse-mower and the horse-reaper. The necessity of some implement more speedily and efficiently to perform the work of the scythe and sickle has forced itself into notice for two reasons which, though they affect the question of the use of other machines to facilitate the processes of agriculture, do not speak so plainly as in this case. The scarcity of labour in this country, and the exigencies of the seasons in our climate are a constant spur to implement manufacturers, and an unceasing incitement to farmers to avail themselves of every effectual improvement which is introduced; but when it comes to a question of harvest the arguments in favour of new, quick, and easy methods of performing labour are invincible. When the weather during hay-season is changeable and uncertain, and the farmer is adopting every scheme that suggests itself to take advantage of a few hours of sunshine, surely nothing can be so provoking to him as to see his labourers employed hour after hour with a small tool in their hands, shaving down grass a few inches at a stroke as if all the summer were before them in which to gather the stuff whereof to make a haystack. And when the corn is ripe and wants garnering, when reapers are needed in half-a-dozen fields at once, and the kernels are shelling out, or the rain may be expected before there is fair time to make the crop safe, what is so barbarous in these days, what is so hazardous to the interests of the farmer, and to the welfare of the food-consuming public as to see the old system of reaping persisted in, as if science and ingenuity had done nothing among us to facilitate the cultivation of the soil, and to help the farmer to snatch a victory over the seasons? Perhaps the most generally adopted of modern agricultural machines is the steam-thrasher, but next to that stand the horse-mower and horse-reaper. There is no county in England, we believe, into which they have not penetrated, and they are in very general use throughout Scotland. In Devonshire and in some other counties reaping matches are held annually, and prizes are given to the drivers who work them most skilfully. The annexed engraving represents the Combined Two-horse Mower and Reaper, manufactured by Messrs. Picksley and Sims, of Leigh, Lancashire, at work in a wheat-field. The horses move along at a quick walking pace, cutting as they go a breadth of corn equal to the width of the line of knives shown in the plate. One man drives the horses, and the other rakes the corn off the lattice, and the swathe is so evenly laid that the task of tying up the sheaves behind the machine, which is usually done by women and boys, is a very easy one. This machine, shown with various modifications at Oxford by Messrs. Picksley and Sims, was invented by Howcroft and M'Gregor. It has a patent sliding double-gear arrangement by which it can be converted from a reaper into a mower and from a mower into a reaper, giving a fast speed for mowing and a slower speed for reaping. These makers have been singularly successful in providing a machine capable of being used both as a mower and a reaper. Complaint is sometimes made that the extensive adoption of machinery has rendered old outdoor processes and occupations somewhat less picturesque, but we do not think that this charge can be made against the reaper depicted in our engraving. This curious machine, moved by a pair of horses among the corn, and laying it level to the hands of the sheaf-makers at an easy walking pace presents, we think, a picture quite as striking as and more interesting than that of a dozen men toiling in a stooping attitude under a burning sun to reap down corn with one of the most dangerous of edged tools. To our minds one of the most pleasing of sights in harvest time is the horse-reaper doing its work smoothly and swiftly in the golden corn fields. Messrs. Picksley and Sims were very large exhibitors at Oxford of other machines besides reapers and mowers. They have a large number of corn mills, crushers, turnip-cutters, chaff-cutters, horse-rakes, horse-gears, pig-troughs, trucks, and garden implements, as well as steam engines and mills for the application of steam power, and to them the judges awarded a £5 prize for chaff-cuttters to be worked by steam or horse-power, a £4 prize for turnip cutters for steam or horse power, and a high commendation for a turnip-cutter for hand power. Their stand was altogether a very attractive one, both to farmers and to gardeners.

Turning once again from the farm to the garden, we give a picture of a little lawn mower which must be a boon to small householders with a contracted patch of grass in front or at the back of their houses. Amateur gardeners on a small scale have some reason to complain that the ingenuity of implement makers is employed in a line of business which is not very serviceable to them. It is interesting to one who has a few square yards of garden and grass in which he takes delight, to see how many contrivances there are for assisting the horticulturist, but he generally feels when he has sufficiently admired these things that they are not for him but for his neighbour who occupies a larger house and garden. The little implement here represented, manufactured by Messrs. Follows and Bate of Manchester, is an exception. It is calculated to meet the case of the smallest householder, with a little bit of turf not much bigger than a pocket-handkerchief, and it will at the same time do a great deal of work if required. The knives are only six inches across, it can be worked by a child, and its price is within the means of the humblest. The amateur gardener cannot use a scythe and does not care to try, but this little lawn mower is an amusing plaything, and yet in its way is as effectual as a heavy, costly implement. Messrs. Follows and Bate showed many other samples, running larger in size up to the dimensions of quite a formidable machine, but we have selected the smallest because it is the greatest novelty, and meets the wants of a class whose needs are sometimes, in such matters, overlooked. These exhibitors had a large stand, and showed mowers and reapers, new files, mills, weighing machines, garden rollers, pumps for extinguishing fires, garden seats, washing machines, fire-proof safes, &c.

We are preparing an interesting sketch of the small breed of Suffolk pigs exhibited by Messrs. Sexton of Wherstead Hall.



FOLLOWS AND BATE'S LAWN MOWER FOR THE MILLION.



MESSRS. PICKSLEY, SIMS, AND CO.'S COMBINED REAPER AND MOWER.

THE WAR.

Very conflicting reports reached us from the seat of war last week when we were going to press. A great battle had been fought before Metz, the losses had been fearful, and both parties were rejoicing over a victory. Of such a doubtful character was the intelligence that we let the telegrams pass until explanations should arrive. Those explanations have been unfavourable to the French cause. They show that though the Imperial troops under Marshal Bazaine fought brilliantly and desperately, and were neither routed nor subdued, the result of the battle was the prevention of the Marshal's strategical movement by which he intended to join the other great division of the Army of the Rhine, leaving Metz with a comparatively small but sufficient defence; for Metz is one of the strongest fortresses in Europe, and does not need 100,000 men inside its walls to take care of it. The great battle which was announced in such different terms at Paris and at Berlin, was fought on Tuesday week, and the intelligence of it was officially telegraphed from the German army at Pont-a-Mousson thus:—

Marshal Bazaine whilst retreating from Metz to Verdun was attacked at nine a.m. on the 16th by the 5th Bradenburg Division (the same which was victorious in the battle of Saarbruck), and was stopped on his march. Our troops showed heroic courage, being opposed by four French corps d'armée, including the Imperial Guard, who fought well, and were ably led. Our troops were only reinforced after six hours' hard fighting by the arrival of the 10th corps d'armée. The losses on both sides are considerable, but our success is complete, as the French have been prevented from continuing their movement of retreat, and have been driven back to Metz. They have lost 2,000 prisoners, two eagles, and seven guns.

The French account, dated from Verdun on the 17th, ran as follows:—

The Marshal Commander in chief sends the following dispatch to the Minister of the Interior:—"Headquarters, August 16. This morning about nine o'clock the *corps d'armee* commanded by Prince Frederick Charles, directed a very vigorous attack on the right of our position. The division of Cavalry Forton and the Second Army Corps, commanded by General Frossard, well sustained the attack. The corps echelloned to the right and left of Rezanville came up successively to take part in the action, which lasted until night-fell. The enemy deployed considerable forces, and several times returned to the attack, but was vigorously repulsed. At the end of the day a fresh *corps d'armee* sought to turn our left. We have everywhere maintained our position, and inflicted considerable loss on the enemy. Our losses are also serious. General Bataille is wounded. In the hottest of the fight a regiment of Uhlans charged the staff of the marshal, and 20 men of the escort were placed *hors de combat*. The captain who commanded them was killed. At eight o'clock in the evening the enemy were repulsed along the whole line. The number of troops engaged is estimated at 120,000 men."

The declaration of the commander that he had "maintained his position" was vague, seeing that it was not so much his position but his road to Verdun that he wanted to secure, and subsequent information went to show that the result of the battle was the stopping of his road; Prince Frederick Charles's object was to prevent Marshal Bazaine's division of the army from falling back on Verdun, and that object he seems to have accomplished. One of Reuter's telegrams which reached Paris on Thursday morning, was to the same effect as the above. It ran thus:—

A dispatch from Marshal Bazine, dated yesterday, four p.m., says:—During the whole of yesterday I have been fighting a battle between Doncourt and Tronville. The enemy has been repulsed, and we have passed the night in the positions we have conquered. I shall delay my furthsr movements for a few hours, in order to largely complete my ammunition. We had against us Prince Frederick Charles and General Steinmetz."

At Paris only the French telegrams were received, and it was believed that an important victory had been won: but in London the impression was very different, and from the London papers on Saturday the people of Paris got the first intimation of the unsatisfactory result of Tuesday's battle. On Thursday King William himself attacked Marshal Bazaine's forces outside Metz. The intelligence was telegraphed to Berlin by his Majesty to the Queen, in the following terms:—

Bivouac near Rezonville, Aug, 18 (9 p.m.)—The French army, occupying a very strong position to the west of Metz, was to-day attacked under my leadership, and, after nine hours' fighting, was completely defeated, cut off from its communications with Paris, and driven back towards Metz.—William.

From the German army was reported the bombardment of Strasbourg from the Kehl side of the Rhine on Friday. The battle of Tuesday, fought by Prince Frederick Charles against Marshal Bazaine's forces, is known as the battle of Vionville; that fought by King William on Thursday is the battle of Rezonville. The latter was further officially reported on the day after the event by the Prussians as follows:—

A brilliant victory was gained yesterday. The French were driven out of very strong positions, situated one behind the other, and were thrown back towards Metz. They are now hemmed in in a narrow space round Metz, and are completely cut off from their communications with Paris, the 12th Prussian Army Corps having taken possession of the railway from Metz to Thionville. The losses of our troops are, unfortunately, commensurate with the greatness of their heroic achievements against the strong French positions which they stormed.

The following further German telegrams afford additional particulars of these and other recent engagements, and of the state of feeling in Berlin:—

Aug. 21, 12 45 p.m.—French prisoners are still being continually brought in here. Yesterday evening 2,000 arrived, including 36 officers; and to-day another batch, with 55 officers, among whom is General Plombin. The loss suffered by the French in the fighting of the last few days—namely, near Courcelles on the 14th, near Vionville on the 16th, and near Gravelotte on the 18th—amount in dead alone to between 12,000 and 15,000 men. If to this number be added the prisoners and those of the wounded, who are generally to be reckoned among the killed in a battle, the total loss on the side of the French cannot have been less than 50,000. We made about 4,000 prisoners at Gravelotte.

The *Official Gazette* says:—"If the noblest of the German nation fall during the present conflict, the German people will at least have the consolation of knowing that the battle has not again been fought in vain, as was the case in the war waged by our forefathers against arrogance and lust for conquest. Nor will Germany be robbed of her most beautiful territories. It will be given to our King to establish a lasting peace, and to create in the heart of Europe a great united German Fatherland as the guardian of a God-fearing, noble morality, and of real freedom."

The accounts published in Paris were of a character to create a much more favourable impression of the course of events. We quote some of the items:—

Marshal Bazaine is stated to occupy a position enabling him to march upon Metz or Verdun, and to have voluntarily arrested his march upon Verdun. The communication between Metz and Chalons has become difficult, eighteen hours being required for despatches between Marshal Bazaine and MacMahon. In the battle of the 16th, the French again fell short of ammunition. The Emperor and the Prince Imperial are at Chalons. In Saturday's sitting of the Legislative Body, General de Palikao said: the Prussians have caused a report to be spread that on the 18th instant they obtained great advantages over our troops. I come here to declare that the Prussians who attacked Marshal Bazaine were, on the contrary, driven back into the quarries of Jamount." M. Henri Chevreau, the Minister of the Interior, then announced that the armament of the National Guard of Paris was being actively proceeded with, and that 80,000 men would be armed on the 26th of August.

It was announced by telegram on Saturday that the Emperor visited several Army Corps at Chalons on Friday on horseback, and was everywhere surrounded by the soldiers, who demanded to be allowed to march against the enemy. The following is a summary of the news published in this country on Tuesday, received from Paris:—

Letters from Verdun to the 19th instant state that the Prussian advance guard was rapidly closing in on Verdun, where no news had been received from Marshal Bazaine. Verdun is in an imperfect state of defence. French accounts of the battles of Gravelotte on the 16th say that the French lost 15,000 wounded, without counting the dead. The camp at Chalons is raised, and the troops are being extended, and have taken up positions along the line of the Marne. The army of the Crown Prince was at St. Dizier, and it appeared that he intended to March on Paris by the valley of the Aube. It is stated that the army of the Prince is 150,000 strong. The *Public* states that on Sunday Marshal Bazaine received ammunition and provisions, of which he was in need. Other information stated that the Prussians had cut Bazaine's communications with Verdun. The Prussians had occupied the station of Mezières, between Metz and Thionville.

On Tuesday afternoon a telegram was received by the *Standard* from its correspondent at Paris, which ran as follows:—

It is announced that Bazaine has succeeded in cutting the enemy's line, and in effecting his retreat upon Montmedy, by way of Audun and Longuyon.

This was not confirmed by any of the other papers on Wednesday morning, and great doubt was thrown upon its correctness by the *Times*.

Measures for the defence of Paris are being carried out with the greatest celerity. In the city, and indeed throughout France, a single patriotic feeling unites all parties against the enemy. Indirect confirmation was given of the truth of the report of Bazaine's escape from Metz by a statement made by the Count de Palikao, in the Legislative Assembly on Monday. His words were:—

Since this morning we are in receipt of good news from Marshal Bazaine of the 19th instant. I cannot give you the particulars, but the news gives proof of confidence and energy on the part of the Marshal which we fully share. The Minister asserted that the preparations for the defence of Paris were progressing, and said: "We are ready to receive any force that shall present itself before our walls."

On Thursday morning came rumours of a fresh engagement between Bazaine and the Prussians, resulting in a French victory, but no definite intelligence, and no confirmation of the report of Bazaine's escape from Metz. The drift of the news on that and the two or three preceding days was that the French were concentrating near Rheims the forces that were not at Metz, and that there was daily communication between MacMahon and Bazaine. The *Gaulois* announced an attempt to assassinate Marshal MacMahon. The Marshall escaped without a wound; but a soldier behind him was wounded in the head. The assassin was arrested. It was announced in Paris on Tuesday that Metz was completely isolated. The strength of MacMahon's forces is stated to be from 150,000 to 200,000 men, with abundant artillery and ample supplies.

The *Official Journal* reports that the amount of subscriptions to the National Loan received in Paris and the Departments has reached 750,000,000 of francs (£30,800,000). The fortification of Paris is proceeding with great rapidity. The order has gone forth for the demolition of the Bois de Boulogne.

By telegrams on Thursday morning we learn that the French have evacuated Châlons, and that MacMahon has withdrawn his forces from Rheims.

WAR ITEMS.

The following is an extract from a private letter kindly handed to us by a friend:—"You will smile when I tell you that I returned from Paris this morning. I did not go over on business, but to bring over the family of an old friend who lies here ill. His Galen found him so fidgetty with anxiety for them that he advised them to be brought over to him, and as there was no chance of anybody else I volunteered to go. Things are all in a muddle there. I called at ———. It was closed, as were two-thirds of the places of business. It was posted up everywhere yesterday in Paris, 'Retreat of the Prussians! 400,000 killed!!' I think they have added a cypher to the latter. My agent in Paris told me that nearly all the factories and works were stopped throughout Paris and France generally, and that all business contracts were declared void. . . . I had no difficulty whatever in my journey. I think I look sufficiently John Bull not to be suspected of being a spy, French or Prussian."

On Saturday Miss Margaret Henderson, of Fowler-street, South Shields, left that town for the seat of war as nurse to the sick and wounded. Miss Henderson had previously offered her services, which were graciously accepted by the Queen of Prussia.

Two Prussian spies, disguised as Sisters of Charity, have been arrested on the fortifications in the Bois de Boulogne.

The King of Prussia has conferred on his son, the Crown Prince, the Order of the Iron Cross of the second class, as a reward for the victory of Weissenberg.

The war, it seems, is telling against American interests. It has seriously crippled the petroleum trade, of which Philadelphia is the headquarters and Germany was a main market, while North German vessels were the chief carriers. It has tied up large numbers of North German vessels at American wharves, including nine steamers at New York and two at Baltimore, while hundreds of labourers formerly employed by these steam lines have suddenly been thrown out of employment.

Great activity prevails at the Royal Gun Factory at Woolwich, where the manufacture of the 25-ton 600 pounder and the 18-ton 400 pounder muzzle-loading gun is being carried on rapidly. The guns are intended for distribution among the ironclads now being brought forward for sea, as well as the sea and land defences.

The Shooting Season in France.—A notice is published in the *Journal Officiel* that the commencement of the season for *la chasse* in the department of the Seine is postponed.

Recruiting in England.—At the recruiting stations in London the progress of enlistment is very rapid. At King-street, since the announcement of the terms of enlistment to the Royal Engineers and the advantages to be derived in the corps, a large number of well-dressed and intelligent young men, many apparently from a short distance in the country, have presented themselves, and from twenty to thirty a day have been accepted. Last week an order was issued by the military authorities, stating that they were prepared to receive recruits for the Military Reserve No. 1. These candidates must have served three years in the army, and not be more than 34 years of age. The notice, after enumerating the advantages they will enjoy, announces that applications are to be made to the reserve captain at Albany Barracks, Regent's-park. At Chatham it is announced that within the week 200 recruits had been enrolled, and that the 39th Regiment stationed there, had secured as many as 100. At the Tower and other parts of London there is an unexpected number of volunteers, especially from the district of Deptford, Woolwich, and Greenwich, &c.

The Designs of Prussia.—General Turr, who recently published a statement intended to show that the present war was the result rather of the machinations of the Count Von Bismarck than of the unjustifiable interference of France, has within the last day or two communicated to a correspondent in whom the *Standard* places implicit reliance, the following particulars of a conversation he held with the Emperor, in Paris, at the Tuileries, on the 22nd July, 1870, about three o'clock. War was then declared, and the general observed that the declaration had fallen among them (*nous*) like a shell. The Emperor, he states, replied, "I had not an idea of making war at present, but since the occasion has come I accepted it, and it is better now than later, for Prussian efforts continue to mine Paris, Florence, and Vienna, and the disconnecting process makes vast strides. The point of the sword is not directed against me alone, and if the other European Powers do not see it, so much the worse for them. I see a European danger, and I do not hesitate. If France is left without support—well! it is not the first time that France has fought to save Europe." Such are the words attributed by General Turr to the Emperor in July last, and he adds on his own part—"Is it not true that the Emperor made an alliance with England in 1853 to curb the power of Russia—is it not true that he vigorously aided Italy to become Italian? Now, by undertaking this war, he will save Europe from being Prussianised. It may be that he will fall himself, but the work undertaken in the common cause of civilised humanity will remain." General Turr proceeds to speak of Prussian incentives and intrigues at Turin, Milan, and Genoa, among the working classes of Austria and the journals of Vienna. "You will then comprehend," he says, "how and why the Emperor has sought to bring Prussia to an account before all her machinations should be completely ready." General Turr thinks that the French ought to have delayed some weeks, but he thinks that Lebœuf was mistaken in his calculations, which may cost France dear, and possibly cost the Emperor his throne. "Alas!" he continues, "Cavour is no more, and the others are but dwarfs, or Italy and Austria would at once have declared for France." General Turr declares himself an ardent advocate of German unity and liberty, but does not think these are included by any means in the Prussian programme.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

Bread and Cheese, says Dr. Gardner of the United States, contain every element necessary for human life, and upon it the race may live its allotted time, increase and multiply, and enjoy life happily.

To Tighten Piano Pins.—A correspondent of the *English Mechanic* says:—"The best way to tighten the pins of a pianoforte is to rebore the plank for pins two or three sizes larger than the existing ones, for the purpose of thoroughly clearing the holes of canker and rust, which, if left, often create what is technically known in the trade as 'jumpers,' *i.e.* the pins won't turn smoothly in their holes, but move with a succession of jumps, and then good bye to all comfort in tuning."

Food for Old People.—Is your fat, good-natured old grandfather living on fat beef and pork, white bread and butter, rice and sugar, till he has lost all mental and physical energy, and desires to sit from morning till night in the chimney corner, saying nothing and caring for nothing? Change his diet; give him fish, beef-steak, potatoes, and unbolted wheat bread, with one-half or three-quarters of the carboniferous articles of his former diet, and in one week he will cheer you again with his old jokes, and call for his hat and cane. Is he lean, and cold, and restless and irritable? Give him the fattest meats, with the best of butter, and as much sugar and molasses as he desires, not taking away entirely food for the brain and muscle, but adapting them to his circumstances. Perhaps his brain has been overworked, and exhaustion and fitful action follow. If so, he needs some form of phosphatic food to which he has not been accustomed, as oatmeal porridge, or oatmeal cake, with milk or a diet of fish, and pearl barley, or pea soup. Or perhaps his irritabilty arises from the use of too much meat and other phosphatic food; if so, keep on a diet in which the phosphates are deficient, as rice, flour, bread and butter, &c., with other food adapted to his condition and habits. But that a regard to these different conditions, and an adaptation of food to conform to them, will very much contribute to comfort and happiness in the declining years of life, there is not a shadow of doubt.

Colour to Grapes.—"Slacken your fire and give more air," was the terse but vigorous reply of the old gardeners when interrogated as to the best means of giving colour to grapes. The directions were simple but not less efficacious on that account, for if there is one phase of a bad practise in grape growing more injurious and conspicuous than another, it is that of allowing moisture to condense upon the bunches in the early morning, consequent upon air not being given sufficiently early. The practice of the best of our grape growers is never to close the houses at all after the fruit begins to colour, or, if they close them for a few hours' extra moisture and swelling power in the afternoon, they take care to give a chink of air before leaving them for the night. Without this we believe it to be utterly impossible to obtain colour, bloom, and extreme finish; and though these may be minor points with our modern "property" preceptors, they are, and ever will be, the major considerations with gardeners who pride themselves upon their calling, and also with employers who know what good fruit ought to be.—*The Gardeners' Chronicle.*

To Detect Linen in Silk and Cotton in Wool.—A microscope with a magnifying power of about 80 diameters will very easily tell the nature of the fabric. The variations of the different fibres as they appear to the eye must be seen in order to be distinguished. Any work on the microscope will furnish you with exact drawings. A chemical test is the following, based on the solubility of animal substances in caustic potassa or soda:—A moderately concentrated solution of either caustic alkali will easily dissolve silk or wool, any residue in the latter being cotton, and in the former cotton or linen. —*The Chemist and Druggist.*

Wine Tasting.—There are many critics, but few good judges of wines. The opinion of hard drinkers is not to be depended upon. The digestive organs should be in a healthy state, and the senses of smell and taste in good condition. The author of the Wine Guide, published by Messrs. Groombridge, gives some useful hints. Pointing out that there are certain prevailing characteristics in all good wine which, if studied, will invariably give the purchaser a correct judgment, even upon wine he may never have seen before—say wine bought for the first time from Australia or Peru and set before him—he says the first point to be attended to is the "bouquet," and this we take care to eliminate as much as possible by agitating the wine in a large glass about one-third full. If this is favourable, and betrays a good odour of the grape, we turn to the taste. If we find that the wine is sound, clean, and soft as silk to the tongue, and has a nice oily appearance as it trickles down the side of the glass, we pronounce it good. It is advisable to pass a sip of the wine well on the tongue and void it again, renewing this process until the organ of taste is well charged with it, as by this means any latent taste at the bottom of the wine will betray itself. Spirits need never be tasted, but merely smelled.

Greengage Wine.—On home made wines Mr. G. Vine, who has recently published a little book under that name, is an authority. His directions for the making of greengage wine are worthy of attention just now, when the fruit is in its best condition. You should slit the ripe greengages in halves, so that the stones will come out, mash the fruit with your hand, cover them with boiling water, and keep them covered up for a week, then draw off the juice into a pan or tub, and add three pounds of sugar to every gallon of the juice; let it dissolve thoroughly, and then put it into a cask to ferment. You may add half a pint of brandy to each gallon; bung it tightly. You may bottle it in a week if clear, and it will be fit to drink in five or six week.

"Two years ago I had a fall which so wrenched my thigh that I could not be moved without great pain. My doctor could give me no relief nor even encouragement that I should ever be able to walk again. After lying in much pain three weeks I tried your Pain Killer, and found almost immediate relief, and in a few weeks could walk without aid.—Mary Rapsey, Hackney, *Nov.* 10, 1868.—To Perry Davis & Son, London."

TWILIGHT SONG.

Come hither to me, my darling,
While the day goes slowly out
O'er the rosy hills of sunset,
Like a queen that is put to rout;
Do you see how the shadows gather
To banish her far away?
Oh, my heart grows full of pity
For the sweet and vanishing day.

The gold of her sunny tresses,
At the noon, was fair to see;
She flung them all to the breezes,
And laughed right merrily;
We heard her laugh in the streamlet,
And felt her tender smile—
Ah, me! but her reign of pleasure
Was but for a little while.

She thought not then of the evening,
That drew so surely on;
She only thought of the present,
That comes, and as soon is gone.
Now, shrouded in gloom and darkness,
She flies o'er the western hills,
And her brief, sweet reign is ended
In the tears that the night distills.

The Elementary Education Act.—At a special meeting of the Leeds Town Council on Wednesday, a resolution was unanimously voted to present a memorial to the Education Department of the Privy Council for the immediate formation of a school board for that borough, under the provisions of the above Act.

"Philander Smiff," the "Ubiqutous correspondent" of the *London Figaro*, announces that he has left the seat of war, and taken a place in the state cabin of the French Flag-ship. "You naturally ask," he says, "how this has come about, and why your Philander Smiff has left the rival armies? You shall know. The fact was, that I could have been happy with either army, had t'other deer army been away."

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews.—The *Melbourne Argus* of June 18 states that the principal event in theatrical circles in that city for some time had been the début of Mrs. Charles Mathews. After a very satisfactory engagement of her husband at the Theatre Royal, Mrs. Mathews appeared as Harriet Routh in "Black Sheep," and met with a very kindly reception. Subsequently Mrs. Mathews performed as Medea in the burlesque of "The Golden Fleece," and Mr. and Mrs. Mathews brought the season to a close on Friday, the 3rd of June, with the performance of "London Assurance." At the end of the entertainment Mr. Mathews made a speech, which he concluded as follows: "Ladies and Gentlemen—Before quitting the colony I shall have the pleasure of paying you another short visit, and of then taking back with me the most lively remembrance of my sojourn in Melbourne. Mrs. Mathews is also, I can assure you, most grateful for the signal marks of approbation which have been bestowed upon her by the public and the press, and in both our names I thank you, and bid you for the present farewell."

The Great Remedial Agent.—If any one had asserted, a generation or two ago, that merely by drawing through vinegar a small apparatus in the form of a belt, and more resembling an ornamental piece of jewellery than a philosophical instrument, the electrical power, with all its wonderful train of phenomena, would be generated in it, the statement would have been treated as absurd and chimerical. Indeed, not very long previously, the successful illustration of that statement would probably have been denounced as witchcraft, and might have subjected the demonstrator to the extreme penalties then attaching to that imaginary crime. Yet this result is a scientific fact now seen in constant and salutary operation through Mr. Pulvermacher's Medico-Electrical Belts, Bands, &c., by which this great power is applied in the most useful of all its capacities—that of the effectual cure of pain and disease. The little apparatus, a moment before inert, becomes an abundant source of the great agent which, ever at work throughout all the functions of the animal frame, is essential to health and life itself. It conquers and cures disease in some of its most distressing and exhausting forms, and imparts new vitality and energy to the system. Having examined the claims of Pulvermacher's (of 200, Regent-street, London) appliances to confidence, we find multitudes of those whose afflictions have been removed (in many cases after the failure of all other treatment) bearing witness to its unparalleled efficacy in curing rheumatism, gout, neuralgia, tic doloreux, pains in the head and face, sciatica, lumbago, paralysis, dyspepsia, enfeebled functions and powers, exhausted energies, failure of memory and hearing, and other derangements of the muscular and nervous system. These testimonials are supplemented by the evidence of distinguished physicians and surgeons, British and foreign, the great medical academies and faculties of Paris, Vienna, &c., the Royal College of Physicians, London, together with reports from hospitals and professional journals, all concurring as to the great therapeutical utility of Mr. Pulvermacher's invention. Facts like these may well be accepted as the announcement of an invaluable auxiliary to remedial science and practice. They dispel all doubt as to our possession of a power unapproached in its efficacy for the relief of suffering. The curative properties of electricity—life's chief supporter—instead of being, as formerly, administered precariously and even dangerously, are now regulated with ease, comfort, and certainty, in a form perfectly convenient, and can be applied by patients to themselves without any assistance beyond a few plain and simple printed instructions. The subject is so important to the happiness of individuals and society—the facts rest upon proof so completely beyond the range of doubt—that we should account it a neglect of duty not to make this specific allusion to them. [Advt.

The Rev. Charles J. Rolimson has published "A History of the Castles of Hereford and their Lords," which is highly spoken of in critical circles. It is illustrated with sketches of buildings, &c., by Lady Frances Vernon Harcourt.

M. Emile Ollivier.—It is stated in the *Liberte* that the ex-Premier of France was on Sunday last at Culoz, in Switzerland, in good health, but complaining bitterly of the majority of the Chamber, whom he accused of betraying him.

The *Journal de St. Petersbourg* points out that the statement of the *Indépendance Belge*, that an understanding existed between England and Russia, to the effect that they would not allow a dismemberment of France, is untrue. Although Russia does not desire a dismemberment of France, such an understanding does not at present exist.

Fall of a Grand Stand at Leicester.—On Monday several hundred persons assembled to witness a series of athletic sports and pony races at Leicester. Just before the pony races were started, a grand stand, upon which were about one hundred persons, fell with a crash to the ground. Its late occupants were huddled in a mass, and several of them were very seriously injured. In spite of the accident the sports were continued until the programme was completed.

On Saturday the Prince and Princess Christian honoured Sir John and Lady Pakington with their company at dinner at Westwood Park. The party consisted, besides the host and hostess, of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess Christian, Lady Susan Melville, Captain Eliot, Viscount Garlies, M.P., the Bishop of Worcester and Mrs. Philpot, Lord Lyttelton, Lord Sandys, Lady Sandys, the High Sheriff, Sir Edmund and Lady Lechmere, Mr. Amphlett, M.P., and Mrs. Amphlett, Mr. and Lady Diana Pakington, and Mr. Herbert Pakington.

Wills of Rich Men.—The Stamp-office accounts for 1869 show that in that year twenty probates of wills or letters of administration were stamped as passing personal property exceeding a quarter of a million. Five of these probates had a stamp costing £3,750; five had a stamp of £4,500; three had a stamp of £5,250; one administration had a stamp of £5,625; one probate a stamp of £7,500; one a stamp of £9,000; one a stamp of £10,500; one a stamp of £12,000; one a stamp of £13,500; and one, the will of a millionnaire and something more, had a stamp of £21,000.

Burning the Dead.—The question of cremation or burning dead bodies instead of burying them, for a long time discussed, has again been mooted in respect to the victims of the war. A medical commission has been named in France to examine the subject. In ordinary graves, the natural decomposition of bodies produces deleterious gases, the injurious action of which is now admitted by all hygienists. The quick-lime added in the large common trenches to hasten the destruction of bodies does not prevent the disengagement of infectious emanations from all these putrid corpses, and penetrating through the layer of earth which covers them. The business in hand is not to substitute in ordinary cases the funeral pile for interment, but to ascertain the amount of danger caused after a great battle to survivors by the inhumation of a great number of corpses within a narrow space, and to inquire whether their combustion would not have great advantages.

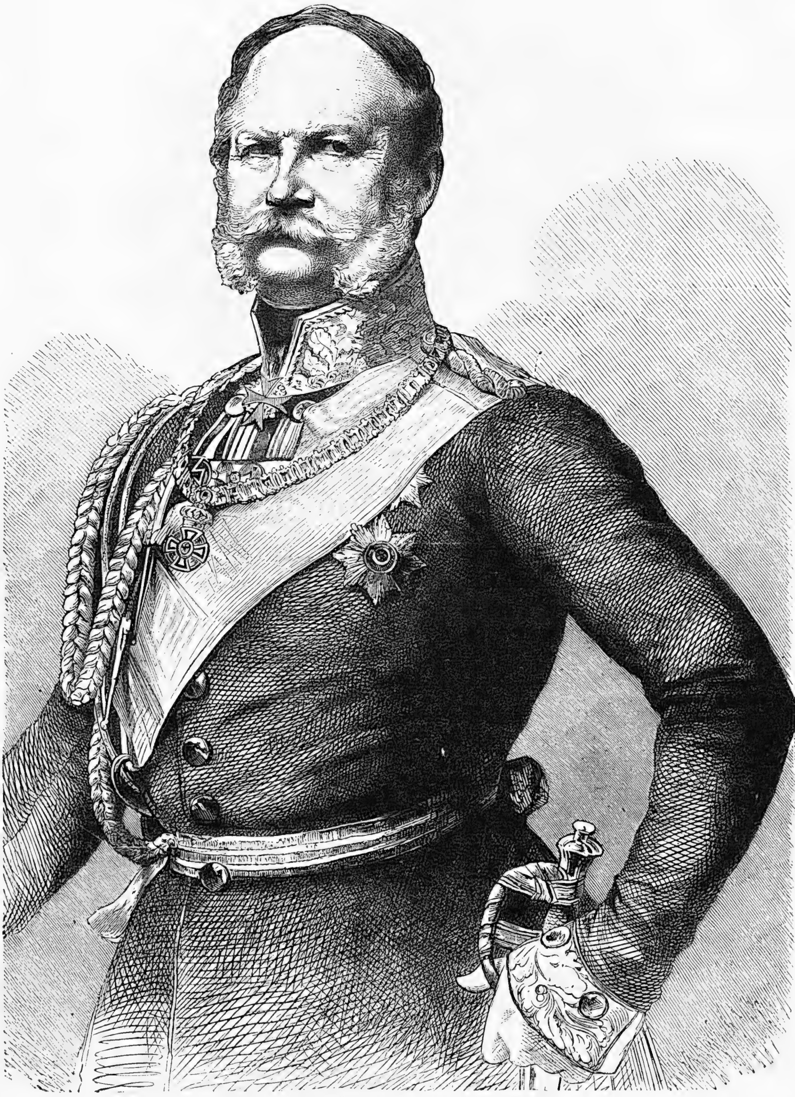
Donald Dinnie in America.—The well-known Scottish athlete, Donald Dinnie, of Aboyne, has met with quite an ovation in America, whither he has gone for a brief sojourn at the request of a number of his countrymen resident there. Donald Dinnie suffered considerably from the fatigue of the voyage across the Atlantic, and when he landed at New York, towards the end of last month, he looked much thinner, which somewhat affected his physical powers. Notwithstanding this, at the Adroit games, on the 27th ult., where Dinnie made his first public appearance in America, he outdistanced all other competitors in every contest in which he took part, surpassing the second man at hammer throwing by 30 feet. While the Scotchmen on the other side of the Atlantic are naturally very proud of the muscular native of Deeside, the Americans and the Yankee journalists are loud in admiration of Dinnie's extraordinary display of prowess and agility.

The Orleans Family and the War.—The *Figaro* publishes the following extract from a letter of the Comte de Paris, addressed from Twickenham on the 20th inst., to a friend in Paris: "What events within three days! What rude shocks for every French heart! You will well understand how much we suffer in the presence of this national disaster, when, to aggravate our distress, we are compelled to be passive spectators. The refusal of the request made by my uncle and my brother is, in this respect, cruel. That refusal has prevented me sending to Paris a letter, with the same object as theirs, that would have arrived a little later. Only to think that Paris is to be besieged, and that on those very fortifications, the last boulevard of France raised thirty years ago by Louis Philippe and the Duke of Orleans, there will not be a single member of the Orleans family among the defenders of the country! And what, perhaps, is harder to bear than all, in our disinterested importunity the public see only the motives of a restless ambition. But do not think of us; think only of the splendid army which is upholding the honour of France, and of all those brave citizens most recently collected at Paris, who will save our country from the last humiliation.—Yours, Louis Philippe d'Orleans."

The Place of Refuge, during this hot weather, STEELE'S HAIRCUTTING SALOONS. The Largest and Coolest in the three Kingdoms. Extra Assistants to meet the large demands for Shampooing with eggs, &c. Streams of warm, tepid, and cold water—a delightful operation—a necessity and a luxury. Moderate charges. The largest and best 6d. and 1s. bottle of Pomade in the trade; has had an immense sale for eighteen years. Choice Hair Washes, from 1s. 6d. Lime Cream, from 1s. Genuine and delightfully perfumed Lime Juice and Glycerine, from 1s. to 6s. A very large assortment of Hair, Tooth, Nail, Hat, and Cloth Brushes, by best makers, from 1s. Dressing Combs in *Tortoiseshell, Bone, Ivory, Horn,* and *Vulcanite,* from 6d. A splendid variety of fancy Back Combs, from 1s. to 50s. Large selection of Fans from 6d. to 60s., including the newest shapes and patterns. The largest stock of Toilet Requisites and Fancy Goods in the Midland Counties, selected from the best houses of Paris and London, at STEELE'S, HAIRCUTTER and ARTIST in HAIR, Opposite the Railway Station, New Street, Birmingham. [53]

WILLIAM I., KING OF PRUSSIA.

This active, warlike sovereign, whose home for the last two or three weeks has been with the great Prussian army and whose recreation has been upon the terrible battlefields of the French Rhine territory, is in his seventy-fourth year. He is brother to the last King, Frederick William IV., and son of Frederick William III. His mother was Princess Louisa of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. He was born on the 22nd of March, 1797, and educated as a soldier. His experience of war extends back more than half a century, for he was engaged at sixteen years of age in the heroic struggle of Prussia against the power of France, under Napoleon the Great, in the year 1813, and he was in the field again against the Emperor on his return from St. Elba. Thirty years ago he was appointed Governor of Pomerania. At the outbreak of the revolutionary movement of 1848 Prince William took refuge in England, but he soon returned to his country, being elected a member of the Constitutional Assembly. Ten years later his brother, Frederick William IV., became affected in his mind, and the Prince was made Regent. At that time he manifested Liberal tendencies, and dismissed the Kreuz, or aristocratic party from office. On the 2nd of January, 1861, the days of his regency having expired upon the death of his brother, he became King William I., and on the 18th of October he placed the crown upon his own head at Königsberg. By that time, acting, it is believed, very much under the personal influence of the Count Von Bismarck, he had to a great extent abandoned the Liberal policy which he had adopted as Regent. At his coronation he assumed the title of *Rex Dei Gratia* (King by the grace of God), and formally declared his adhesion to the doctrine of the divine right and annointment of Kings. His political conduct as King since 1861 has greatly disappointed the expectations formed of him in earlier years, when it was thought that he would favour the developement of free institutions. So arbitrary was the course he adopted in 1862 and 1863, when he insisted upon the enormous increase of the military strength the nation, in spite of the will of the majority in the House of Representatives, that it is believed a revolution was only prevented by the outbreak of the war with Denmark on the Schleswig-Holstein question, a war which was in a great measure owing to the tactics of the Count Von Bismarck. From the date of his coronation King William seems to have given himself over entirely to the carrying out of the daring schemes of his Minister for the aggrandisement of his Kingdom. The Danish War, in which Prussia and Austria were engaged as allies, led to the liberation of Schleswig and Holstein from the rule of the King of Denmark, and it was the wish of Austria that those provinces should have an independent existence as States, taking part in the meetings of the Diet of the Germanic Confederation; but King William and the Count Von Bismarck desired to annex a part or the whole of the Duchies to Prussia. The disagreement of Austria and Prussia on that subject led to the Austro-Prussian war of 1866, when King William, having sent an ultimatum to the Germanic Confederation, which took the part of Austria in the quarrel, broke up the Confederation and entered the field not only against the Austrian Empire but against all the German States which persisted in their opposition to Prussian schemes. So successful were the Prussian arms in that brief but remarkable war that King William had arrived, at the head of an army, within fifteen miles of Vienna when a truce was called and the struggle was brought to an end, by the withdrawal of Austria from all interference in the concerns of Germany, by the addition of a considerable portion of North Germany to the Kingdom of Prussia, and by the formation of the North German Confederation, whose meetings are held in Berlin, and over which King William presides. In private life the King of Prussia is a most amiable prince. He is a firm supporter of the Protestant religion, and a man of much piety. An attempt was made to assassinate his Majesty at Baden on the 14th of July, 1861. It was on the 28th September, 1862, that the Count Von Bismarck was first made prime minister, and on the 13th of October in the same year that the Representative Chamber was closed by a decree of the King, who declared his intention to act without that body. The King himself met the Emperor of Austria at Gastein, on the 2nd of August, 1863, when the Convention was agreed upon which gave Schleswig to Prussia and Holstein to Austria. The name of King William has now become thoroughly identified with the policy of the Count Von Bismarck, and with the great scheme by which that able minister proposes to convert the whole of the States of Germany into a great Prussian Empire. In times of peace both King and Minister are very unpopular in Prussia, but the sound of war unites the whole nation on the side of a Sovereign and a Statesman who exhibit such remarkable power and determination in every contest against those who oppose themselves to the greatness of Prussia.



WILLIAM I., KING OF PRUSSIA.

THE CAPTURE OF SAARBRUCK BY THE FRENCH.

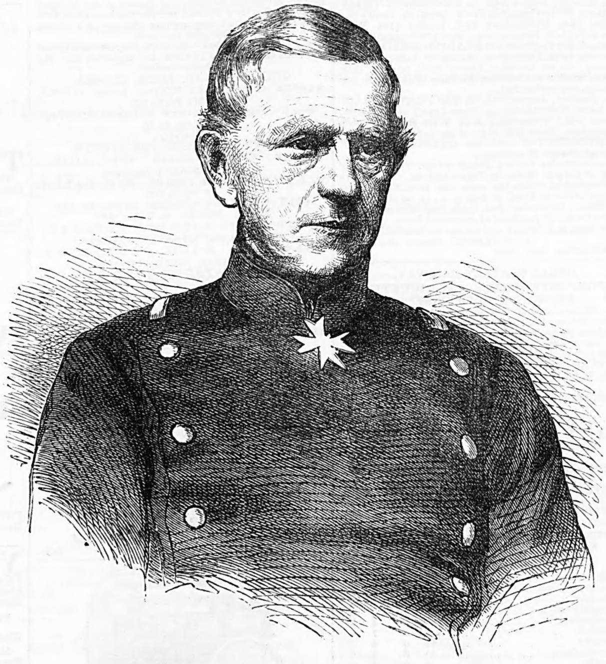
Saarbrück is associated at once with the first bright hopes and the subsequent disasters of the French arms in this war. Its capture was the earliest little event of the campaign, before the business had begun to grow serious. The event will be remembered in connection with the "baptism of fire" of the Prince Imperial, and with the still more striking baptism of misfortune of the French nation. The Imperial forces took the place when it was hardly defended; the Prussians recaptured it only by dint of heroic effort against a fierce resistance. Our picture on the opposite page represents the movements of the French troops upon the city almost at the very commencement of active hostilities. We need not tell the too familiar story of how Saarbrück was won and lost, but a few words about the place itself may be of interest to many readers. Saarbrück is situated on the left bank of the river Saar, and takes its name from the stream and the bridge (or *brück*). At the commencement of the war it was a Prussian city, as it is at the present moment, and there were about 12,000 inhabitants in it before they were disturbed and scattered by the sounds, and signs, and blows of contending forces. The city was founded in the 10th century by the Bishop of Metz, and held afterwards by the House of Nassau till the 14th century. It was after that taken and lost and taken and lost by the French, passing alternately into the hands of the Emperors of Germany, by whom it was burnt to the ground in 1676. In 1794 it was annexed again to France by the Republican army, and became the chief city of the French district of the Saar. In the re-arrangement of territory after the battle of Waterloo it was given to Prussia. Its conquest by the French at the beginning of this war was, no doubt, regarded by Napoleon as the first steps towards the "rectification of the French frontier" by the recovery of the Rhine provinces and the conversion of the Rhine into the natural boundary of the French empire as it was in the days of the Republic and the First Empire.

The Origin of "Hurrah!"—The German "Hurrah!" heard now over the battle-fields of the French provinces of the Rhine, is as famous, in its way, as that of England. Just before the outbreak of hostilities the question of the origin of the cry was warmly discussed in German newspapers. The cry "Hurrah!" a German writer contended, was received by the Germans from the peoples coming from the East at the time of the "Vôlkerwanderung." It was then "Harra!" subsequently changed in the wars with the Sclaves, Huns, and Avars to "Wara!" A writer in the *Vossian Zeitung*, who has lived several years in India, gives still further explanations on the origin of these cries. He says:—"The word 'Harra' (really 'Harri') was got by the old Germans, in the first place, from the people who wandered into Europe from Central Asia. The word 'Harra' ('Harri') is used to this day among the Hindoos of Eastern India as a designation for God, being one of the names for the God Vishnu. When the Hindoos have anything difficult to accomplish they cry 'Harri! Harri!' This cry is very frequently used by the Hindoo boatmen, when their boat happens to get stuck on a sandbank in the Ganges; putting all their strength together, they call out 'Harri! Harri!' and exert their utmost powers until they bring it afloat. When the boatmen are towing the boat up the stream, and come to a strong current, where they wish to go quickly and securely over difficult and dangerous paths, the same cry is used. It is probable that the Hindoo soldiers use the cry 'Harri' in war. In short the word 'Harri' is used by the Hindoo whenever he is conscious of his own weakness, and feels the necessity of divine help. The word 'Harri,' therefore, which our forefathers got from the peoples emigrating to Europe from Asia, and from which the cry 'hurrah!' is derived, signifies 'God help us!'"

Snider Rifles.—Despatches have been sent out to the Indian Government, informing Lord Mayo that arrangements have now been completed for supplying all the troops in India, native as well as British, with Snider rifles; also for the equipment of twenty-six batteries of horse and foot artillery in readiness for service.

GENERAL MOLTKE.

Baron Von Moltke, general and chief-of-staff of the North German army, was born October 26, 1800, at Mecklenburg-Schwerin. He offered his services to Prussia, after serving in the Danish army during his early years, and he obtained in 1822 the commission of a second lieutenant. His bravery and talent in his military calling, and his abilities as a tactician and a strategist (which have astonished the whole world during the present campaign) brought him into notice, and before long he was appointed to the general staff of the Prussian army. This afforded him an extensive field for the rapid development of his wonderful powers. In 1835 he was sent to Constantinople for the organisation and instruction of the Turkish army; and he distinguished himself in the campaign of the Sultan against the Viceroy of Egypt, returning to Prussia rich in honours and experience. Continuing to strengthen his position, he drew more and more to the front, and was definitely appointed chief of staff in September, 1858. In this position he has remained up to the present day, and the services he has rendered in the organisation of the Prussian army, and the skilful way in which he has planned campaigns and military operations, can never be over-estimated by the Germans, or too highly admired by the world at large. He planned the campaign against Denmark, and the result was again the increase of his fame. His genius as a strategist was most remarkably displayed in the war four years ago between Prussia and Austria. It is said of him that he was always in possession of information of every little movement of the opposing army, and that he was never at a loss for a single moment how to counteract all the operations of his adversaries, and turn them to his own advantage. When once engaged in the planning of a military movement he is as firm as a rock, and nothing can prevent him from carrying it out so long as he can see a chance of success. He is still smart and robust in spite of his seventy years, and capable of taking an active part in the operations of the field. Those who know best wherein consists the strength of General Moltke's genius are the most confident in attributing to his plans the remarkable success which has lately attended the German army.

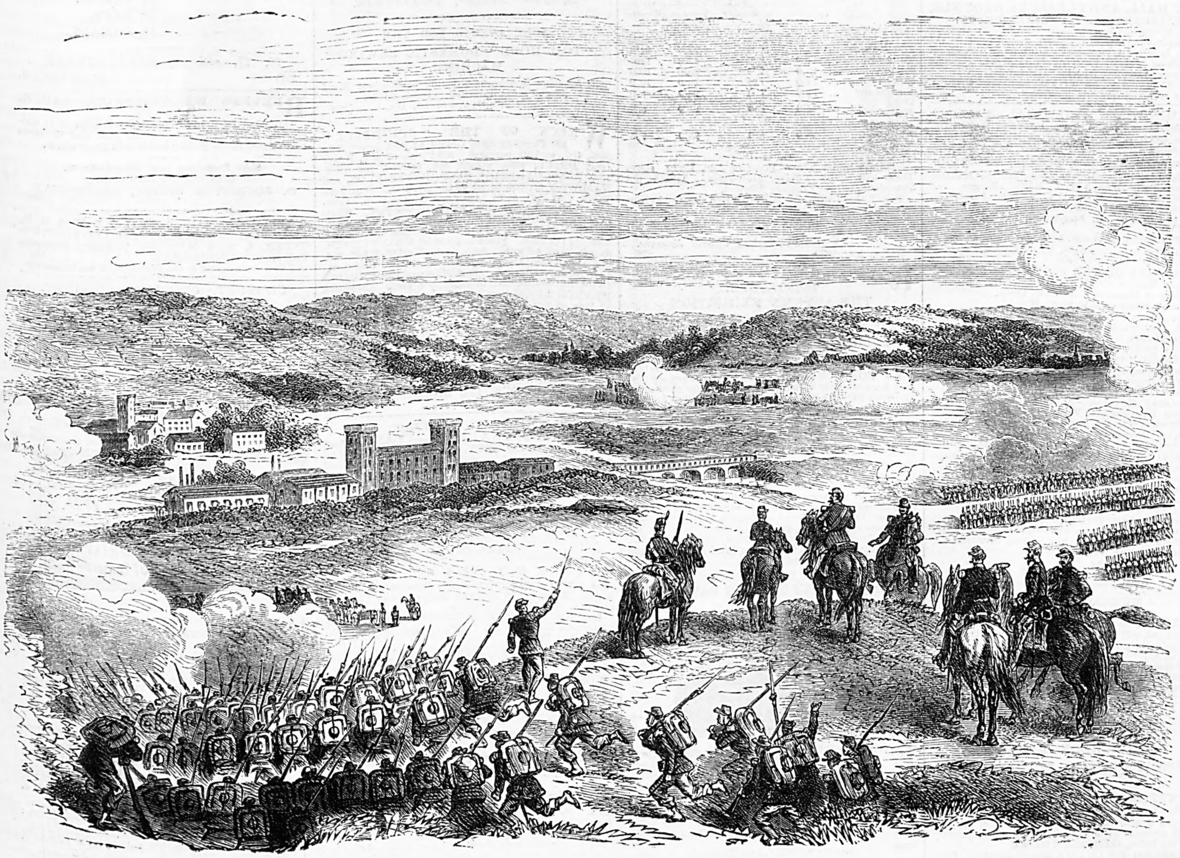


GENERAL HELMUTH VON MOLTKE, CHIEF-OF-STAFF OF THE NORTH GERMAN ARMY.

It appears that the Prussians have worked the spy system with great effect. In Alsace, it is reported they knew every square mile of ground, thanks to the perfection of their espionage. At Schillingheim, a party of Prussian dragoons presented themselves before the brewery of M. Schützenberger, and two of them entered and asked for some of the March beer in the third cellar.

Alsace and Lorraine.—It is sometimes said that these French provinces on the borders of the Rhine are more German than French, and might with propriety be annexed to the coming "United Germany." A Bavarian officer, however, who fought at Weissenberg, writes of the inhabitants of those districts as follows:—"The Alsatians have not the slightest recollection of having at one time been Germans. One would have thought that they would have preserved something more from the time when their country was one of the most beautiful of Germany than the use of the German language, which, moreover, they speak as badly as French. Every trace of German customs and loyalty has disappeared among them. They are completely Gallicised, and are more fanatical than the French themselves, as their present conduct proves. During the assault on Weissenberg they seconded the French, who defended themselves bravely, by firing through garret windows on our troops. . . . Even the women took part in the battle; they poured boiling oil and water on our conquering soldiers."

War and the State of Trade.—Speaking of the influence of the war upon the state of trade in this country, the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* says: "So far from some of our leading trades being depressed, they are becoming busier than they have been for a long time, whilst in some instances orders have been given to such an extent as to ensure producers a long season of activity. War material, as might be expected, is in most request, and in Birmingham the gunmakers are experiencing the full benefit of the arming which is now going on, not only in England, but on the Continent. In Sheffield the armour plate mills are kept constantly going, large orders having recently been received for heavy plates for ship and shield purposes, whilst gun-barrels and every description of ordnance keep the makers as fully employed as they can be. Most other branches of the iron trade—railway material in particular—are also busy. Orders for some descriptions of cutlery and other goods have also been received on German account to be sent out with the brand of the foreign firms. This, of course, is owing to the almost entire stoppage of many large works on the Continent, the proprietors of which, owing to the cheapness of labour, and producing a rather inferior quality of goods, have been able to hold many of the Continental markets against Sheffield manufacturers. The coal interest will also be advantaged by the war, the attempt of Prussia to get that most important article declared contraband of war by England having failed."



THE WAR: THE MOVEMENT OF FRENCH TROOPS UPON SAARBRUCK. *(See page 104.)*

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.

Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jas. Rodgers.

OPEN FOR THE SEASON THIS DAY (SATURDAY) THE 27TH AUGUST,

When the DRURY LANE COMPANY will appear in the great Drama of the "PEEP O' DAY BOYS," by Mr. Edmund Falconer, with New and Beautiful Scenery, painted by Mr. R. M. Hyde.

Incidental to the piece will be exhibited the magnificent Panorama of the "LAKES OF KILLARNEY," painted expressly by Mr. Telbin.

The Manager has much pleasure in announcing to his Patrons and the Public in general that the following Engagements are already made:—

DRURY LANE COMPANY, for 13 Nights; Company from the Royal Surrey Theatre, with the successful Drama of "Clam" (original Cast and Scenery), 12 Nights; Mr. Joseph Eldred and his Selected Company, with Andrew Halliday's successful Drama of "Little Emily," 12 Nights; Mr. Buckstone, and the whole of the Haymarket Company; the Company from the Royal Holborn Theatre, with the attractive Drama, "Behind the Curtain" (original Cast and Scenery); and MR. J. L. TOOLE. [10

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BOATING, &c.

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DANCING every MONDAY and SATURDAY Evening, commencing at Six o'clock. [788

BIRMINGHAM TRIENNIAL MUSICAL FESTIVAL

in aid of the Funds of the General Hospital (30th Celebration), on the 30th and 31st of August and 1st and 2nd of September, 1870.

President—The Right Hon. the Earl of BRADFORD.

Principal Vocalists—Mademoiselle Titiens, Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Miss Edith Wynne and Mademoiselle Ilma di Murska, Madame Patey and Mademoiselle Drasdil. Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. W. H. Cummings, Mr. Santley and Signor Foli.

Solo Pianoforte, Madame Arabella Goddard. Solo Violin, M. Sainton. Organist, Mr. Stimpson.

Conductor, Sir Michael Costa.

OUTLINE OF THE PERFORMANCES.

Tuesday Morning.—Elijah, Mendelssohn.

Wednesday Morning.—Naaman, Costa.

Thursday Morning.—Messiah, Handel.

Friday Morning.—St. Peter (a new Oratorio), Benedict (composed expressly for the Festival); Requiem, Mozart.

Tuesday Evening.—A Miscellaneous Concert, comprising Cantata (*Paradise and the Peri*), J. F. Barnett (composed expressly for the Festival); Miscellaneous Selection, comprising Mendelssohn's Concerto in G Minor, and Overtures Freischutz and Zampa.

Wednesday Evening.—A Miscellaneous Concert, comprising Instrumental Work, A. S. Sullivan (composed expressly for the Festival; Choral Ode (ditto), Dr. Stewart. Second Part will consist entirely of selections from the works of Beethoven.

Thursday Evening.—A Miscellaneous Concert, comprising Cantata (*Naia and Damayanti*) Dr. F. Hillier (composed expressly for the Festival); Miscellaneous Selection, including Kreutzer Sonata and Overture Guillaume Tell.

Friday Evening.—Samson, Handel.

Programmes of the Performances will be forwarded by post on application to the undersigned, at the Offices of the Festival Committee, Ann Street, Birmingham, on and after the 28th inst.

By order.

HOWARD S. SMITH,

773] *Secretary to the Festival Committee.*

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VISITORS to the Town Hall during the Festival, will find agreeable relief from the great heat, so usually prevalent in crowded Assemblies, by the use of the 'QUEEN'S LAVENDER WATER," the most fragrant and refreshing of all Perfumes.

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GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

TEMPERANCE FETE AT CRYSTAL PALACE, AUGUST 30TH.—WORKMEN'S INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, August 29th, an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave Wolverhampton (Low Level) at 11-50 a.m., Bilston 12-0, Wednesbury 12-5, Dudley 11-0, West Bromwich 12-15, Birmingham (Snow Hill Station) 12-35, and Bordesley 12-40 p.m. for READING and LONDON; returning from Kensington Station at 6-40 p.m., and Reading 7-50 on Tuesday, August 30th, or from Paddington Station at 10-10 and Reading at 11-40 a.m., on Tuesday, September 2nd.

On Tuesday, August 30th, an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave Wolverhampton (Low Level) at 5-35 a.m., Bilston 5-45, Wednesbury 5-50, West Bromwich 6-0, Birmingham (Snow Hill) 6-10, at Bordesley at 6-15 a.m. for KENSINGTON and the CRYSTAL PALACE (without change of carriage).

Passengers for Crystal Palace return the same day (only) at 6-5 p.m., from the Palace Station. Passengers for Kensington return the same day from Kensington Station (Addison Road) at 6-40 p.m., or on the following Friday, September 2nd, from Paddington Station at 10-10 a.m., by payment of increased fares.

For fares and further particulars see handbills.

J. GRIERSON, *General Manager.*

Paddington, Aug., 1870. [1000

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

WORCESTERSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SHOW AT KIDDERMINSTER.

On Wednesday and Thursday, August 31st and September 1st an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave Birmingham (Snow Hill) at 9-40 a.m., Handsworth 9-46, Smethwick Junction 9-51, Oldbury 9-56, Rowley 10-2, Cradley 10-10, and Stourbridge 10-20 a.m. for KIDDERMINSTER; returning each Evening at 8-35. Tickets available for the day of issue only.

J. GRIERSON, *General Manager.*

Paddington, Aug., 1870. [1

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

SATURDAY TO MONDAY AT MATLOCK.

EVERY SATURDAY UNTIL OCTOBER 29th, 1870.

RETURN TICKETS at the following Low Fares, will be issued from the undermentioned Stations to MATLOCK BATH by any of the Ordinary Trains on Saturday, available for return by any Train up to the following Monday Evening.

STATIONS.	FARES. 1st Class. s.	d.	2nd Class. s.	d.
Leicester	10	6	8	0
Rugby, Nuneaton	12	6	10	0
Hinckley	11	6	9	6
Loughborough	7	6	5	6
Nottingham	6	0	4	6
Newark	9	0	7	0
Lincoln	10	6	8	0
Birmingham	10	6	8	0
Burton	6	0	4	6
Derby	4	0	3	0
Chesterfield	5	0	4	0
Sheffield	8	0	6	0
Rotherham	8	0	6	0
Masboro'	8	0	6	0

JAMES ALLPORT, *General Manager.*

Derby, 1870. [908

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

SEA SIDE TRIPS FOR THREE OR TEN DAYS.

EVERY SATURDAY until OCTOBER 29, 1870, CHEAP EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued from the undermentioned Stations to

GRIMSBY AND CLEETHORPES.

By any of the Ordinary Trains at the following Low Fares.

FARES THERE AND BACK.

STATIONS.	To return by any Train up to following Monday Evening. 1st class. s. d.	Cov. Cars. s. d.	To return by any Train on following Monday Week. 1st class. s. d.	Cov. Cars s. d.
Birmingham ...	20 0	10 0	25 0	12 6
Tamworth ...	17 0	8 6	22 0	11 0
Burton	15 0	7 6	20 0	10 0
Leicester	15 0	7 6	20 0	10 0
Loughboro' ...	14 0	7 0	18 0	9 0
Derby...	12 0	6 0	17 0	8 6
Mansfield... ...				
Nottingham ...	10 0	5 0	15 0	7 6
Southwell... ...				
Newark				

Children under Three Years of Age, Free; above Three and under Twelve, Half-fares. Tickets not Transferable. No Luggage Allowed.

The Tickets will not be recognised for the Return Journey unless they have been presented and Stamped at the Booking Office at Cleethorpes or Grimsby on the Day of Return.

JAMES ALLPORT, *General Manager.*

Derby, Aug. 1870. [907

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WILL OPEN ON MONDAY NEXT, AUGUST 29TH, 1870.

August 27th. [5

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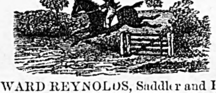

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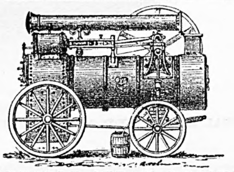

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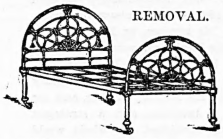

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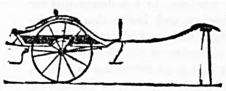

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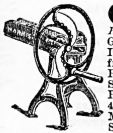

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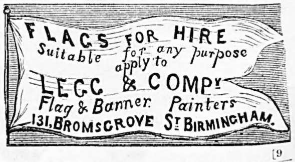

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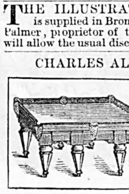

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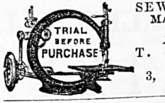

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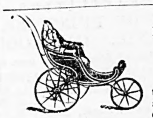

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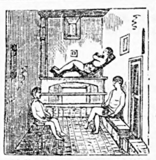

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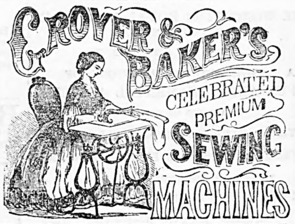

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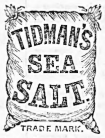

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